Ogumoro wants to require PSS to teach Chamorro, Carolinian. PAGE 2
Jorgensen's criminal case dismissed; missing son found, but escapes. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
Devotees bear on their shoulders the weight of the 30-foot Ironwood cross up Mt. Tapochau to carry out the island's Good Friday tradition in observance of Holy Week. Hundreds of others hiked the mountain as a sacrifice and to bear witness to the event.

See more photos on Page 14

WEATHER COOPERATES FOR GOOD FRIDAY TRADITION

Hundreds trek up Mt. Tapochau

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A much easier trek to the top of Mt. Tapuchao greeted hundreds who made their way to Saipan's highest peak in the annual Good Friday tradition. Weather also cooperated this time unlike last year last year when rain made the ground muddy and wet making the climb difficult.

Personnel from the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Department of Public Works also paved the road a few days before the annual trek of the island's Christian pilgrims, making it easier for them to walk the trail.

Several community-based organizations like the United Filipino Organization and the Triskelion Grand Fraternity-TAU GAMMA PHI/

See HUNDREDS on Page 4

Bank, 2 ex-employees argue $40M lawsuit 'extinguished' with Cecilia Flores' death

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A bank and its former employees are asking the federal court to dismiss the $40-million lawsuit filed by Cecilia Flores against them considering that she already passed away.

MUFG Union Bank, Ken Kato, and Victoria B. Concepcion, through counsels Sean E. Frink and Marcia Schultz, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to deny a motion to substitute the son for Flores in the lawsuit.

Frink and Schultz said the claims of Flores in her lawsuit were ex-

See BANK on Page 4

Demapan: Include PH in CNMI waiver program

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Demapan

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) aims to formally encourage Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to seek the inclusion of the Philippines on a list of countries eligible for the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program allowed for under federal law.

Demapan, in a House resolution set to be introduced during a session Tuesday, encourages the CNMI governor to petition the consideration and approval of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to include the Philippines in the visa waiver program.

"More recent global GDP rankings show promising indications that the economy of Philippines continues to rise, thus demonstrating a tremendous potential for significant economic growth that may be beneficial to the CNMI

The Philippines has also realized significant decreases in visa rejec-

See DEMAPAN on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Barabra Sher's new book, *Everyday Games for Sensory Processing Disorder,* aims to empower children with sensory differences through 100 playful activities.

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LOCAL
A prominent Saipan businessman and animal lover has stepped up and offered to pay any registration fees for any animal adopted from the Saipan Animal Shelter.

» PAGE 13

ASIA
Nicknamed "Duterte Harry," the Philippine city mayor casually threatens to shoot criminals, hang them using laundry line or drown them in Manila Bay.

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Local

Ogumoro wants to require PSS to teach Chamorro, Carolinian

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) wants to mandate all public schools in the Commonwealth—elementary, junior, and senior high—to teach the Chamorro and Carolinian language, making the mastery of the language in written and in oral a prerequisite for students to graduate from such schools.

House Bill 19-143, which is set to be introduced formally this week, seeks to enact a law to highly recommend that students who are Chamorro or Carolinian be enrolled in their respective language class.

A student, who is neither a Chamorro nor Carolinian, may enroll in either language classes if he or she so chooses, the bill adds.

The bill tasks the CNMI Public School System to hire qualified or certified individuals to teach Chamorro or Carolinian in the elementary, junior, and senior high school levels, notwithstanding other requirements imposed by PSS for other teaching positions.

The Chamorro or Carolinian language must be used and spoken at all times in such classes, the bill adds.

"The influence of western civilization has made significant changes in the lifestyle of the Chamorros and Carolinians in the Commonwealth, particularly amongst the younger generations, many of whom today can hardly speak, write or understand their own Chamorro or Carolinian language," Ogumoro's bill states. "It is feared that sooner or later, the Chamorro or Carolinian languages will disappear."

The bill says these languages directly links and holds indigenous people to their culture, heritage, and identify, and therefore, the Chamorro and Carolinian languages must be preserved.

TOURISM

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

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Rota Promotion with Travelco-chan

March 28, 2016

To promote the "Friendly Island" of Rota, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Japan launched an online promotion with travel information tour site Travelco-chan this month. The special pages include a wide range of information about hotels, diving spots, restaurants, fishing and sightseeing spots, as well as other attractions in Rota. The MVA has approached several travel agents about creating new Rota tours. A

FAM tour for travel agencies is tentatively planned for April provided reliable air transportation would be available to support tours. The promotion will continue through April 11, 201planning to conduct an Agent Planner's FAM trip to Rota in April and will continue through April 11, 2016.

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Jorgensen's criminal case dismissed; missing son found, but later escapes

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The missing 16-year-old son of controversial lawyer Bruce Lee Jorgensen was found last week and turned over to the Florida Department of Children and Families, but later escaped.

Prosecutors dismissed early this month the charge of unlawful desertion of a child against Jorgensen, who was previously held on $1-million cash bail. He was freed as the court subsequently reduced the bail to $5,000 cash.

According to news reports from Miami, Plantation Police Department Detective Phil Toman stated that the 16-year-old Aage Jorgensen was found sleeping in a bathroom of Hampton Inn and Suites in Vero Beach on Tuesday.

Aage was not identified at the time after he reportedly gave a different name. He was not charged but he turned over to the Florida Department of Children and Families.

As the car stopped at an office in Fort Pierce, Aage jumped out of the vehicle and ran away from the staff, according to Florida Department of Children and Families spokeswoman Paige Patterson-Hughes.

After the agency alerted police about the incident, it was at the time when officers learned it was the missing Aage.

Attorney Glenn Roderman, counsel for Jorgensen, is reportedly offering a $5,000 reward for the public's help in locating his son.

Aage was reportedly first seen on Dec. 27, 2015, when Jorgensen allegedly forced him out of his car in the Ford Lauderdale suburb of Sunrise after being rude or disrespectful.

Miami police arrested Jorgensen at Miami Airport after he allegedly purchased a one-way ticket to New Zealand.

Police stated that Jorgensen did not report to them about the disappearance of his son and refused to help them in the investigation.

According to David L. Price, Jorgensen's friend, the case was dismissed by the court after Jorgensen's counsel proved that he did have a round trip ticket to New Zealand.

Price told *Saipan Tribune* that in his opinion, the case against Jorgensen was pursued because he did not want to cooperate with the local authorities.

For that, Price said, Jorgensen spent almost one month in jail and incurred considerable legal expenses.

Price said Jorgensen could not conduct his own private search while incarcerated.

He said Aaage is apparently very scared of law enforcement officials.

In 2014, the CNMI government agreed to settle Jorgensen's fees and costs in the amount of $800,000 in connection with his representation as counsel for Betty Johnson. The federal court subsequently approved the deal.

NMTI courses for CUC employees set to begin April

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Training for qualified employees of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. through the Northern Marianas Trade Institute will begin next week.

According to CUC human resources manager Andrew Orsini, they are now targeting to start classes on April 4.

"This is the first ever of its kind," Orsini said.

Initially, CUC targeted February to begin training but it

See NMTI on Page 4

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DLNR working to have state vet back

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources is making an effort to have former state veterinarian Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz back on service.

According to DLNR Secretary Richard Seman, the government needs Dela Cruz.

"It's very crucial that in one form or another, the government retains or take back Dr. Dela Cruz because we need a state veterinarian. Right off the ground we need him no matter what," Seman said.

"Dr. Dela Cruz doesn't need the government…it's the government that needs him badly because there are certain issues that only a state veterinarian can perform, can proclaim, no one else," he added.

Seman said that they are working to resolve the issues that are preventing them from hiring back Dela Cruz as he is a retiree who is receiving pension and therefore cannot work as a government employee as per CNMI law.

"The only issue that we're face with this is the existing legislation that prohibits his work as a retiree," Seman said.

To do this, Seman said they need to match his pension and add that amount to what they used to give him.

"One of the things that we need to do right now is at least meet the value of what we used to give him, and whatever his pension amount is, add that to the contract that we used to give him, and give him that as one contract," Seman said.

Seman said the contract amount which is $60,000 is still available but they need additional funds to match Dela Cruz's pension.

"We're trying to secure extra funds so that we can avail him the additional," he added.

Seman said Dela Cruz will then have to give up his pension if he chooses to accept the contract.

Seman noted Dela Cruz's credentials that make him qualified as a state veterinarian.

"He's one of the very few people in the whole nation that is certified in certain credentials," Seman said.

Dela Cruz is an accredited veterinarian, a regulatory meat inspector, and a certified foreign animal disease diagnostician, trained and certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The government veterinary clinic closed down around May of last year after the Attorney General's decision that they could not sign Dela Cruz's contract due to what has been described as "double dipping."

'CUC should take advantage of grants'

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Grants from agencies such as the U.S Department of Agriculture should be taken advantaged by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to improve water services, according to Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

Deleon Guerrero inquired with Anthony Barcinas, business/community programs specialist of USDA-Rural Development, about the possibility of the grants that could be made available to the CNMI.

In his response to Deleon Guerrero, Barcinas enumerated programs such as the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants, Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households, and the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program. He noted that he and the Hawaii Rural Water Association met with CUC Water and Waste Water Division chief engineer John Riegel last January to discuss the programs.

"I support CUC applying for grants and loans so that they can improve the water system," Deleon Guerrero said, "CUC should take advantage of those programs."

He added that he is concerned and has mentioned primarily the needs of the residents in the Mt. Tapochau area, Kannat Tabla, and in Kagman IV.

"They need to improve the water facilities to Kannat Tabla as well all the way to the Bishop Camacho's residence, those are lacking water services," Deleon Guerrero said.

"Kagman IV because it's the most recent homestead that was opened that did not come with a water system," he added.

Deleon Guerrero, who is a member of the House committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, also took note of the fact that CUC currently doesn't have a grants writer and is only contracting their former grants writer to do certain works.

"CUC should make that a priority and fill the position," Deleon Guerrero said.

According to Riegel, they will be looking into the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant, which could provide $150,000 to $500,000 that they could use for tank repairs.

"The Kagman tank and some of the other tanks had some damage to them so we need to get those fixed so we're going to go after some money for that," Riegel said.

Riegel said the USDA grant can help with some projects that are not covered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"I'm trying to take care of all the FEMA stuff first, the mitigation projects, that's more important so I need to get that out and then I will turn my attention to the USDA grants," Riegel said.

"[USDA] got these special grant programs that helps do mitigation programs and that kind of augments that fraction that FEMA doesn't cover," he added.

BANK

From Page 1

tinguished when she passed away.

Frink and Schultz said Flores' complaint alleges two fraud causes of action, both of which are clearly identified by Flores in the complaint as torts.

The lawyers said the CNMI Supreme Court has made clear that tort claims do not survive the death of an alleged tort victim.

Frink and Schultz said Flores' claims therefore are "extinguishable" and the pending motion for substitution consequently may not be granted.

When Flores passed away, her counsel, Juan T. Lizama, filed a notice of death.

Lizama requested the court to substitute Flores' son, Derron, as substitute plaintiff in the complaint.

The Superior Court approved Derron as personal representative and only beneficiary of Flores' estate.

Flores died last Sept. 25. She was the appointed administratrix in the probate of the estate of late former Saipan mayor Donald Flores.

Cecilia Flores sued Union Bank of California and its former employees Borja Concepcion and Ken Kato over a bank manager's alleged unauthorized release of Mr. Flores' money years prior to his death from his $200,000 time certificate of deposit (CD) to a person representing him.

In 2011, Donald Flores, through counsel Lizama, filed a lawsuit in federal court against Union Bank of California and First Hawaiian Bank for allegedly refusing to return the principal and interest earned on the CD. Donald Flores passed away in June 2014. Cecilia Flores then substituted him as plaintiff.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit recently ruled that the claims of Donald Flores that a bank breached the contract and violated the Commonwealth Consumer Protection Act in connection with his alleged time certificate of deposit in the amount of $200,000 were timely filed in court and so may proceed.

The Ninth Circuit reversed the federal court's ruling that the clock on Flores' claims started to run in 1999 when he visited the bank, so his right to sue had expired by 2011 when he filed the lawsuit.

NMTI

From Page 3

has been pushed back.

"There's a lot of logistics they didn't understand was required particularly for the off-island trainees," CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho said.

"We want to get housing for them, in that way they stay throughout the whole process and then return certified," he added.

The training will be open for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and about 15 trainees per class will be selected.

Orsini said a written test will be administered to select final participants to the training and to gauge the level of knowledge of the participants. They are mostly targeting new employees of CUC for the program.

He added that part of the curriculum, which would deal with power generation, are hands-on training.

Previous discussions of the curriculum planned to include introductory craft skills such as basic safety, construction math, hand tools, power tools, construction drawings, basic rigging, as well as communication and employability skills.

The power generation staff development program is a CNMI Department of Labor-recognized course.

"We want to encourage employees to avail of this program and that those who want to enrich themselves and advance themselves further, we highly encourage them," Orsini said.

Orsini said CUC will subsidize the cost for the training of its employees, and at the same time, they will get paid.

"They will go through this like an educational [program], it's almost an upgrade for them, at the same time they're also working with the corporation. So they will be learning at the same time working," Orsini said.

Camacho said they are happy with the collaboration that they have with NMTI and that they are also encouraging people who might be considering working for CUC to reach out.

"We encourage anybody out there interested in working for CUC to come down and see what's available and submit an application," Camacho said.

HUNDREDS

From Page 1

SIGMA-Northern Mariana Islands Council have already set up tents Thursday night to prepare giving away refreshments for those who made the early trek.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and his staff were also on hand early Friday morning to give away water to Christian devotees.

The Department of Public Safety and the Emergency Management Services set up their tents at the foot of the mountain, while the American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter was stationed a few meters from the top.

Individuals, pairs, and groups of people—clutching flashlights and walking sticks—began making their way from the base of Mt. Tapochau unmindful of the 70-°F weather at the top of Saipan's highest peak. Close to 500—men and women of all ages, with some even bringing their children or pets—have already made their way to the top as of 6am.

Around 6:30am, a group of close to 50 male devotees carrying the 30-foot Ironwood cross was already making their way to the top. San Vicente parishioners were reciting the rosary and singing hymns commemorating Christ's passion and death during the procession.

Rev. Fr. Jason Granado, as soon as the cross was laid down near the hill were it will be installed, led the blessing and brief prayer services.

Volunteers began preparing to raise the cross at around 7:15am and a little over 7:30am the cross was planted on top of the mountain after the well-coordinated move by close to 60 men.

While others walked, some chose to run or ride their bike also making it as a form of exercise aside from observing Good Friday. A male septuagenarian, who was celebrating his birthday, was also seen walking without using his cane and whispering words of encouragement to himself.

A Christian missionary also made the climb with his friend for the first time despite being on Saipan for many years.

DEMAPAN

From Page 1

tion rates, the resolution states.

As tourism remains the primary economic driver for the CNMI, the inclusion of the Philippines to the list will help increase visitor arrival to the Commonwealth, it adds.

"Philippines Airlines has recently announced their decision to commence direct flights between Manila and Saipan in June of this year. The inclusion of the Philippines to the list…coupled with the new direct flight service" will "help the Commonwealth bolster its destination promotion strategies and approach."

The CNMI governor has the discretion under the Consolidated Resources Act of 2008 to request the secretaries of the departments of Interior and Homeland Security to add a particular country to the list of countries approved to participate in the visa waiver program.

The Philippines was not initially considered nor included in the originally list of approved countries by Homeland security.

The resolution states that after eight years since implementation of the visa waiver program, an adequate arrival and departure control system has been developed.

"Granting the inclusion of the Philippines to the list… does not represent a threat to the welfare, safety, or security of the United States or the CNMI," it adds.

In 2009, the secretary of Homeland Security exercised discretionary authority to parole into the CNMI visitors for business or pleasure who are nationals of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.

The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2009 tasked Homeland Security to create a list of any countries from which the CNMI had received a "significant economic benefit" from the number of visitors for pleasure within the year preceding enactment of the law.

The department determined that the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Russia meet this economic threshold.

Parole is authorized on a case-by-case basis only for entry into the CNMI and does not extend to other areas of the United States.

Lawmaker eyes system to pay off govt legal obligations, debts

A bill calling for the creation of a payment system to get the CNMI government's legal debts and obligations off the books by prioritizing payment of these debts from the lowest to highest amounts is being introduced at the House of Representatives.

Rep. Antonio P. Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 19-142 seeks to enact a "just and fair" payment system for debts of the local government rendered in final judgment or court-approved statement.

Sablan's bill says that the CNMI government has taken land from owners to use for public purposes such as roads, highways, right of ways, ponding basins, and easements, but that after this taking, adequate and "just compensation" did not follow.

Through legislative appropriation, the bill prioritizes the payment of these debts as follows: debts between $1,000 to $50,000 regardless of the dates of final judgment; debts over $50,000 "based on the date of final judgment;" and legal obligations or debts over $50,000 where there is no final judgment, including legally binding claims and settlements that have been approved by a CNMI court, based on the date on which the settlement was approved by the court and the associated court order for payment.

The bill tasks the CNMI attorney general to compile a certified list of any and all legal obligations or debts of the CNMI government rendered in final judgment or court-approved settlement.

The attorney general will provide a copy of this list to the presiding officers of the Legislature within 30 days after the bill is enacted, the bill adds.

And the attorney general will update the certified list every fiscal year and provided an updated copy to presiding officer of the Legislature.

"This taking without "just compensation" is unfair and simply wrong. It violates the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the NMI Covenant," the bill states.

"Adding insult to injury, those who have been deprived of their lands have been forced to litigate their claims and wait years, even decades for a resolution.

"Sadly, even those who have restored their claims via settlement or by obtaining final judgments are still waiting for just compensation."

The bill defines "legal obligations or debts of the CNMI government" to include, among others, adjudicated obligations, including settlement payments, that are due and payment pursuant to CNMI or federal court order, or are due and payable pursuant to final judgment issued by a CNMI or federal court order.

It also includes, among others, debts due and payable under CNMI law, rule, or regulation that is determined due and payable by the secretary of the CNMI Department of Finance or the CNMI attorney general.

The bill excludes debts and obligations that, among others, are debts incurred by entities other than the CNMI government; debt that is subject to legislative approval that has not been approved; and payments for CNMI personnel or operations.

It also excludes, among others, debts of government entries that were incurred without the full faith and credit of the CNMI; "public debt" under the NMI constitution; and debts incurred for matters that are not for "public purpose." ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

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FestPac delegates need more funding support

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI delegates for the upcoming 2016 Festival of the Pacific in Guam continue to seek the support of the public as they represent the Commonwealth for what has been touted as the "Olympics of the Pacific Arts."

According to FestPac 2016 state committee chair John Gonzales, he is now working with the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to "hopefully get the appropriation of the remaining $50,000 to $70,000 that's needed to adequately fund the 250 delegates selected to represent the Northern Marianas."

» Canoe voyagers to arrive on Saipan

The festival will be from May 22 to June 4 and the FestPac committee will need a budget of $180,000 for the biggest delegation to FestPac that CNMI will have so far.

He added that the delegates are also working on their fundraising activities such as the golf tournament, raffle sales tickets, and dinner shows so that they can raise the needed money for their 17-day trip to Guam.

"We humbly, gratefully, respectfully ask the public to please support our arts and culture because it is a win-win element of who we are to promote our distinct, unique, vibrant indigenous and contemporary culture of our beloved Northern Marianas we call home," Gonzales said.

Most of their budget will go to airfare as they are looking at chartering a plane.

According to Gonzales, DFS Saipan presented them a corporate sponsorship check recently worth $5,000.

"That will go a long way in defraying the cost of the bulk of FestPac participation in Guam for the charter airfare," Gonzales said, "Their check will assist us to defray the cost."

The Marianas Visitors Authority has also approved $50,000 to fund the delegates.

"We are truly grateful for that," Gonzales said.

According to MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, the MVA board has approved the appropriation with certain conditions.

"They mentioned in their communication to us that they are looking at raising $94,000. So the board, the condition is that they take into consideration whatever government subsidies are being provided as well as sponsorship from private sectors and then we'll make up the difference up to $94,000 but not to exceed $50,000," Tenorio said.

Gonzales also mentioned that canoe voyagers from other Pacific nations are expected to arrive on Saipan soon.

"We are hosting them initially for some cultural reconnections and then the entire voyagers from FSM (Federated States of Micronsia), Marshalls, Palau, and the Northern Marianas will be doing a flotilla to Guam to join the opening ceremony," Gonzales said.

Bangladeshi group wants to teach youth their culture

JON PEREZ

Zuti Papel, right, performs while Ranjit Shaha plays the percussion instrument tabla in last Saturday's celebration of the Bangladeshi Cultural Group of the 45th year of the Independence Day of Bangladesh at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bangladeshi Cultural Group wants to keep the Bangladeshi youth, especially those who were born in the CNMI, informed about their culture and heritage. That's why last Saturday, March 26, they celebrated their country's Independence Day.

Close to 80 members of the Bangladeshi community gathered at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Kilili Beach. It was a night of folk songs and speeches that denote patriotism in celebrating the 45th year of Bangladesh being an independent nation.

This was the 19th year that the Bangladeshi community had celebrated their Independence Day on Saipan.

BCG president Rakibul Islam Minto led his countrymen in the singing of the Bangladesh national anthem—*Amar Sonar Bangla* or *My Golden Bengal* from a song written by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

Minto said every society in the world wants to have the next generation to continue its culture and traditions. "We just want to teach our youth the cultures and traditions of Bangladesh, especially those who were born here from parents who are from Bangladesh."

"It has been our goal and task to teach and prepare these kids of the patriotic songs of Bangladesh."

He added that this was the reason why they also celebrate Bangladesh's important festivals to introduce to the youth the culture of their forefathers.

"We also celebrated Victory Day on Dec. 16 and Mother Language Day last February. On April 14, we will be celebrating the Bengali New Year," said Minto.

It was in early 1990s when the first group of Bangladeshi came to Saipan to work. Their numbers swelled through the years with some even starting their own families here.

Bangladesh, then known as East Pakistan, declared its independence from Pakistan by founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the late hours of March 25, 1971. Rahman became the country's first president and second prime minister.

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Ex-CBP officer, 2 others commended for now being drug free

The federal court has commended former U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer Bob Hajime Deleon Guerrero Yamagishi for making positive adjustment in his life by being drug free for over two months now.

During the third session for the U.S. District Court for the NMI's Drug Offender Re-entry Program last week, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Yamagishi credit of one month of supervised release for his participation in the DORE Program.

Manglona said as of last Tuesday, Yamagishi has been drug free for 64 days.

The judge granted DORE Drug Team's recommendation to make a finding that Yamagishi has been in compliance with his terms of supervised release.

U.S. Probation Officer Margarita Wonenberg informed the DORE committee members about Yamagishi not missing any drug testing appointments.

Wonenberg disclosed that the former CBP officer has been serving his community service at The Salvation Army.

Marianas Counseling Services counselor Chris Sablan also apprised members of DORE committee that Yamagishi has not missed any counseling sessions and is still volunteering his time at group meetings.

Yamagishi was sentenced to time served last November after pleading guilty to two counts of wire fraud for making illegal cash advance transactions on a travel charge-card between July 4 and Aug. 7, 2014.

Last January, Manglona revoked the supervised release of Yamagishi for violating the conditions of his probation by using methamphetamine or "ice" last Christmas Day and other times.

Yamagishi was then placed on 35 months of supervised release. The judge re-imposed the same conditions of defendant's supervised release so he could be rehabilitated from his drug and gambling addictions.

At the same DORE session last week, Manglona also commended two other participants—Vicente Aldan Sablan and Francisco Nakatsukasa Basa—who were found to have been in compliance with their terms of supervised release.

As of Tuesday last week, Sablan and Basa have been drug free for 140 days and 132 days, respectively.

Manglona granted Sablan and Basa credit of one month each for their participation in DORE Program.

Manglona said Sablan would be receiving a gas certificate for being the participant with the longest days being drug free.

The DORE committee found Sablan was always early in the drug testing and has shown positive behavior by never missing counseling sessions.

On the other hand, Basa's employer reported to the U.S. Probation Office that Basa was a good worker and had no complaints.

The Marianas Counseling Services counselor Sablan said Basa always played an active role in group counseling.

In April 2014, Sablan was sentenced to eight months imprisonment, with credit of 28 days, for pleading guilty to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. He was placed on three-year supervised release.

In February 2015, the court revoked Sablan's supervised release and sentenced him to one month in prison and 35 months of supervised release for drug use and failure to comply with the substance abuse program.

Last January, the court revoked the supervised release of Sablan for using methamphetamine or "ice" anew and for violating other conditions. He was sentenced to imprisonment of five days and placed on 34 months of supervised release.

In 2006, the federal court sentenced Basa to four years and six months in prison for conspiracy to distribute 50 grams of "ice." He was placed in five years of probation after completing the prison term.

Last Sept. 1, the court revoked the supervised release Basa for violating the conditions of the terms of his probation.

Basa was sentenced to a term of four months imprisonment with credit for time served. He was then placed on 53 months of supervised release.

The 4th DORE session will be on April 19 at 3:30pm.

DORE is a post-incarceration cooperative effort program of the U.S. District Courts, U.S. Probation Office, Federal Public Defender, and U.S. Attorney's Office. The program provides treatment and sanctions alternatives to address re-integration into the community for non-violent, substance abuse offenders released from federal prison. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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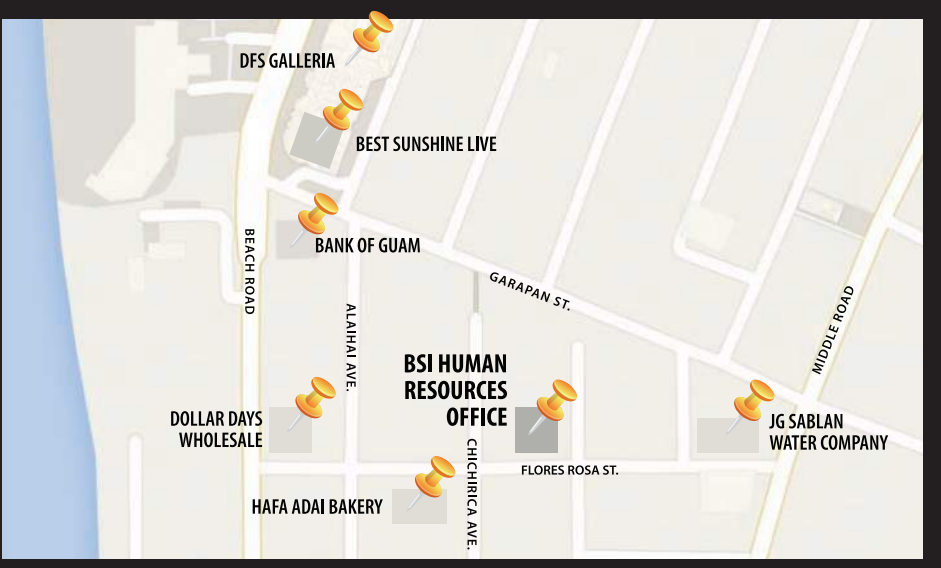

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-023

Opening Date: Monday, March 28, 2016
Closing Date: Friday, April 08, 2016

Maintenance Worker

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Management Analyst or designee. Performs routine preventative and general maintenance of buildings, grounds, equipment and systems in accordance with safety procedures and safe work practices. Maintains cleanliness of facilities including sweeping, mopping, buffing and vacuuming floors and carpets; cleans surfaces including doors, windows and work surfaces; dusts shelving and equipment; performs custodial duties; and collects and disposes trash. Performs basic building maintenance; replaces light bulbs; performs basic repairs such as door knob replacement, blower fan repair, and other routine equipment repairs; maintains order with equipment, furnishings, work areas and supplies. Notifies appropriate resource for advanced troubleshooting or repair work. Performs basic grounds keeping and facilities maintenance; inspects areas to maintain safety and eliminate general hazards. Reviews supply needs and replenishes supply stock such as tissue, paper towels, trash liners and other supply needs; moves file boxes or other items to storage areas; ensures proper storage of cleaning materials, equipment and tools. Performs inventory check of supplies and initiates requests for replenishment. Maintains activity records or logs. Assists skilled maintenance workers with project tasks; may assist with basic carpentry, plumbing and electrical work. Position requires the ability to lift 50 pounds or more. May be exposed to hazardous cleaning chemicals. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : Administration (Dandan Office), Power Generation (Lower Base), Power Division (San Jose) Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $16,155.00 per annum to $19,850.00 per annum. (Salary is negotiable based on qualifications and experience.)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.
POSITION(S) : Three (3)

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS. Knowledge of: Applicable tools and equipment of assigned maintenance tasks; Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skills in: Performing routine and preventative maintenance in assigned area; Performing housekeeping or custodial work; Performing basic equipment or system repairs; Monitoring grounds and work areas for hazards and safety; Reviewing and replenishing stock supplies; Initiating stock and equipment replacement; Maintaining activity records or logs; Assisting with basic carpentry, plumbing and/or electrical work; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

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INVITATION TO BID
ITB16-GOV/CIP-078

Supply and Installation of an Underground Storage Tank (UST) Monitoring System For the Guma Hustisia (Judiciary) Building Saipan, CNMI

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Victor B. Hocog are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Installation of an Underground Storage Tank (UST) Monitoring for the Guma Histisia (Judiciary) Bldg., Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The work will involve the supply, installation, testing and commissioning of a new, compliant, and fully functional UST monitoring system, including securing and compliance with necessary permits, inspections, and approvals from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ).

The project package will be available **Wednesday, March 16, 2016** at the Governor's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on **Monday, March 28, 2016**, 2:00PM ChST at the Atrium Conference Room, ground floor of the Guma Husticia (Judiciary) Building, Susupe, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST **Friday, April 1, 2016** to Mr. Carl Castro, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All responses to questions will be copied to other prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked "**Supply and Installation of an Underground Storage Tank (UST) Monitoring for the Guma Histisia (Judiciary) Bldg.**". For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:00 AM ChST Friday, April 8, 2016. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 AM ChST Friday, April 8, 2016, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 8, 2016** and must be received no later than 10:00 A.M. **Friday, April 15, 2016** ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST April 15, 2016. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 AM ChST April 8, 2016.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Forty-Five (45) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by Forty-Five (45) calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

'The Games Lady' empowering children with 100 playful activities

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Award-winning author and occupational therapist Barabra Sher's new book, *Everyday Games for Sensory Processing Disorder*, aims to empower children with sensory differences through 100 playful activities.

In her newest book, which can be found online and at bookstores, Sher provides parents and educators with sensory-rich activities and showcases the plethora of ways that simple and joyful play can engage children in meaningful ways.

"These are games that encourage them to know more about sensory. They are fun games so that they will learn things in a fun way. The way to engage children is to engage children and you do that by making it fun," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sher, who has worked for the Public School System in the Early Childhood Special Education Department since 2000, noted that her games use every day materials at home and in the classroom, making it easy for adults to conduct. She even uses musical activities in the book to garner the child's attention and ensure the student remembers the activity and lesson.

"When we are born we have a hundred billion brain cells but they're not connected, they are just loose brain cells and everything we do and every experience we have connects those brain cells up," she explained.

She said that the activities that she introduces in the 11 books she has written give children new experiences, enlarging the amount of information they can work with.

"They start to make connections. If you don't use it [brain cells], you loose, it. The first five years are so important years for a kid. I come in to the classroom and bring more experiences and games to get their attention in order for them to learn," she added.

With over 40 years of experience as an occupational therapist, Sher's books addresses child development ranging from increased attention span and self-confidence to social skills and enhanced motor skills.

"There are so many layers of learning going on in just one game, so that is why I am brining in so many new games."

In one of many positive reviews, Carol Stock Kranowitz, author of *The Out-of-Sync Child* and *The Out-of-Sync Child Has Fun*, wrote: "Whimsy and wisdom pour forth from this wonderful book. The fun and functional sensory-motor ideas are easily adaptable to suit all environments, all abilities, all kids and all their grown-ups."

Sher is a Northern California native and graduated with her Bachelor's in psychology at Boston University and a Master's in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California. After completing her studies she returned to her hometown to work with underprivileged children and eventually brought her wealth of experience to the islands.

"Many of the books would not be written without the teachers and children at Saipan schools. The teachers have been very welcoming to me and I get to go in the classroom and play these different games with the kids," she said. "I'm always designing new games and am very grateful for the enthusiasm of the children and teachers who are so willing and ready to play my games!"

It was her work in in New Zealand, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Cambodia, and other places that she learned to make learning games from "throw-away" materials. She said that her work includes all kids in the classroom. "Although the game is designed to meet a particular need of the special ed student. All kids like to play."

Sher is already planning her next book, which she said would be her first piece directed toward adults.

Sher's books, podcasts, and other work can be found in 11 different languages on her website, www.gameslady.com.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Award-winning author and occupational therapist Barabra Sher poses for a photo with her recent book along with all of her other works about child development.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
Everest Kitchen was presented a certificate by the Division of Public Health Services as the first restaurant to be included in their CNMI BIBA Healthy Restaurant Program. The program identifies restaurants and menu items which are approved by local dietitians based on nutrition standards set forth by various health agencies.

Everest Kitchen first to be part of Healthy Restaurant Program

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Everest Kitchen is the first restaurant in the CNMI to be part of the CNMI BIBA Healthy Restaurant Program launched by the Division of Public Health Services.

Representatives from DPH presented a certificate to Everest Kitchen owner Laxmi Shrestha Thursday in recognition of their achievement.

"It is an honor to present this certificate to Everest Kitchen," said CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna said, "This restaurant is a pioneer for providing the CNMI public with more nutritious options through the healthy restaurant program, and clearly marking these menu options with the BIBA logo contribute directly to a healthier CNMI."

DPH director Margarita Torres Aldan said it is important for the community to have these options available to them and noted that aside from being healthy, Everest's menu is reasonable.

"It's really important because one of the barriers that our community says to us is where do we go, where do we go for healthy choices or that it is expensive," Aldan said.

Shrestha thanked DPH for the recognition that was awarded to her and her restaurant.

Everest Kitchen's food is made from scratch daily and influenced by authentic Nepalese and Mediterranean cuisine. Located in Garapan, they currently operate through lunch hours but plans to serve dinner again soon.

As part of the BIBA Healthy Restaurant Program, Everest Kitchen now has the BIBA logo on their menu beside food items that were approved by local dietitians.

"The BIBA logo is a brand that can be trusted by the public so restaurant patrons can make the healthy choice the easy choice while dining out," said Aldan said.

DPH developed the program so that local participating restaurants can provide clearly marked healthy menu options to their patrons.

CHCC dietitians along with staff from the DPH developed specific nutrition standards for recipes, which use guidelines and definitions set forth by the United States Department of Agriculture, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, and the Whole Grains Council.

Recipes are analyzed by these BIBA nutrition guidelines that specifically monitor calories, fruit and vegetable servings, grains, proteins, dairy, sugars, fats, and sodium. Further, participating BIBA restaurants agree to serve water free of cost and pledge to one commitment of health such as providing healthy side dishes or reducing sugar sweetened beverages.

"We hope the community will support Everest Kitchen and the other participating restaurants, and that the restaurants not yet participating in the BIBA program will follow their lead," Aldan said.

According to local project assistant Jessica Lorfing, the BIBA program is currently processing applications from Caravan, Tropical Blendz, and Shirley's Coffee Shop. They are planning to implement it at twenty restaurants in 2016.

Loyalty cards are available for patrons who consistently order BIBA menu options. For every five BIBA entrees ordered, the sixth entrée is 10 percent off. Patrons can also help raise awareness for the program by taking a photo of their food and either posting it to the CNMI REACH Facebook page or link the photo to the hashtag #oneplateatatime.

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MARCH

28 MONDAY
OPEN HOUSE - Saipan, Tinian, Rota
8:30am - 3:30pm

30 WEDNESDAY
CLOSE-LOGO RANKING

31 THURSDAY
RAFFLE DRAW
CDA Office - 3:00pm

OPEN HOUSE
- Tour of CDA Office
- Video 30 years of CDA will run throughout the day
- Rank Logos for CDA
- Giveaways
- 1 Raffle Coupon per person Prize Drawing on Friday, March 31, 2016
- Light Refreshments

RAFFLE DRAW PRIZES:
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- IPad Mini
- Portable BBQ Grill
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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I THINK THERE'S BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING. I GAVE YOU A HOME... I LEAVE YOU ALONE... I'M ENLIGHTENED... I'M TOLERANT OF OTHERS... I PRETTY MUCH INVENTED THE WHOLE "COEXIST" THING... SO WHY ME?
EUROPE
HOLD THIS.
ISIS

EDITORIAL

Europe's refugee crisis after Brussels

Amid all the presidential campaign rhetoric about border security, it's easy for Americans to forget that some nations have bigger problems than we do. Uninvited foreigners have been pouring into Europe for more than a year, producing the biggest refugee crisis since World War II. It has strained budgets and facilities, inflamed xenophobia and evoked fear of terrorist infiltrators.

This past weekend, the European Union and Turkey inaugurated a program that they hoped would be a big step to handling the problem. It's not perfect, but it looks like the best of some bad options.

Then came the terror attacks in Brussels, unleashing new European opposition not only to immigrants who've already arrived, but also to those who aspire to come.

The horrific war in Syria, which has been going on since 2011, has caused some 4.8 million people to flee in desperation. More than a million refugees arrived in Europe last year, the majority of them Syrians, and the pace did not let up with the start of 2016.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been extraordinarily accommodating, granting asylum to 300,000 applicants last year. She has also steadfastly refused to put a numerical limit on refugees Germany will accept. But in her country as well as others, popular resentment and fear have been a windfall for right-wing parties that want to keep out foreigners. Imagine how the Brussels bombings will intensify that public opposition.

Last week the EU, under pressure to gain control of the crisis, forged a deal with Turkey intended to ensure decent conditions for refugees who have already arrived but also to deter new ones from making the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean Sea. Those who try to sneak into Greece from Turkey, a common practice, will be returned. For each Syrian whom Turkey takes back, the EU will resettle another one from those already in Turkey, up to a maximum of 72,000.

Turkey is also supposed to tighten security to block migrants trying to get from its territory into neighboring countries. In return, the EU will provide nearly $6.8 billion to Turkey, much of it to feed, clothe and house those living in its refugee camps. Turkey also got the EU to relax visa rules for its citizens — and to consider restarting talks on letting it join the EU.

In the past, migrants have made their way to the Aegean Islands of Greece (an EU member), hoping to eventually get to Germany and other countries in Northern and Central Europe. The goal of last week's accord is to stanch the flow by removing that northerly option. The message from Merkel to potential migrants last week was, "When you embark on this perilous journey, you're not only risking life and limb, but you have very little prospect for success."

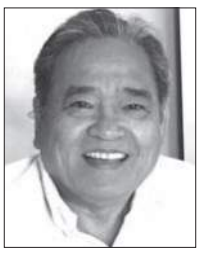
Making the agreement work in a humane way will take money, and yes, that $6.8 billion is meant to ensure decent conditions for refugees living in Turkey. The EU also has an obligation to give each asylum-seeker an individual hearing and return only those whose claims are found unwarranted.

Human rights groups have denounced the deal, but the United Nations refugee agency appears to be reserving judg-

See REFUGEE on Page 11

The Day after Easter

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Let us be clear about historical data. Nicolaus Copernicus was a Dominican monk of the third Order who had the misfortune of suggesting against established teachings of the Church and the ancients that the earth is not the center of the universe. Because of his privileged position, he was tolerated but Galilei Galileo was not that favored.

For supporting Copernicus, adding that not only is the earth peripheral in the universe but also rotates on its axis to make night and day, and revolves 365.25 days around the sun, it had too many implications on the power and authority of the Vatican that Galileo had to recant to avoid the gallows.

The death of theism was formally pronounced with a quiet toll from the Death-of-God theology within seminaries in the '60s but the renegades were not yet mainstream. Now Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong writes of it with considerable following across the denominational spectrum. His way was paved by the likes of Anglican Don Cupitt of England in 1980 when he wrote Taking Leave of God and emeritus Professor of Religious Studies at Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand, and Sir Lloyd Geering of the Presbyterian communion who penned Christianity Without God.

(For the uninitiated, the Episcopalians are high Church Anglicans after the American revolution who were Roman Catholics in England until Henry the VIII failed to get Rome to bless his union with Anne Boleyn; the Methodists are low Church Anglicans that flourished in the American frontier, and on Saipan, worship in the same CK sanctuary but separately with cousins, the Episcopalians.)

We bother with this because in spite of the death of theism widely assumed in seminary circles of Christendom in my time, the Ptolemaic three-story universe still dress our telling of the "resurrection" metaphor of Easter. The earth is stuck between heaven and hell, and the bodily resuscitation of crucified Jesus redeems the sins of the world!

Truth has to this day been the province of "who say so" until the educated lay started demanding that one makes a commonsense explication of rite and ritual, along with the metaphors that accompany two millennia of theism.

Isaac Newton had a deep appreciation of the laws of nature known to be reliable and constant. Charles Darwin gave its motions a developmental push so that the laws of nature may be inviolate but the nature of life itself is evolutionary, he noted. Then came Sigmund Freud who pointed out our perception of nature resides in our psyche, and in that perception do we determine our existence and behavior. We get in trouble when the internal psyche diverges too far from the external reality. Given the laws of nature, its evolutionary character, consigned in the treasures of the psyche, Albert Einstein came with a blanket declaration that all is relative, subject to chaos and change.

We've noted how at one of my classes in a private Catholic school, a young fellow was astute enough to ask if I was an atheist. Before I could answer, another student responded with, " No, he simply decided to be responsible for 86 years of his life." Yes, I am no longer theistic, if that means glorifying Jesus as having bodily risen from the dead as a demonstration that he was the son of Santa Klaus up in the sky. Jesus was about being profoundly human, not a pseudo Zeus/Theos/Dios/Yu'us of piety.

In my time, the death of God became academic, the profundity of being human became constant; it took the limelight and that's how I suggest we view Easter, if we deign to view it at all.

To rise from the dead would want us to rehearse what it is that we are dead from, or die to, to exist whether we like it or not. The Christ story is instructive; we die to our illusions. "We will get over the Romans," was the firm and determined illusion in the synagogue. e shall have a Messiah from the House of David who will help us banish these infidels from a foreign land and liberate us from their pagan clutches.

Being "saved" is one illusion that still pervades our dreaming these days. We think someone or something (the BSI for the CNMI, maybe) will take us away from whatever we perceive to be keeping us down.

Easter is not about believing that a Jesus of history, crucified by the Romans with the collusion of the local Jewish leaders, rose again from the grave so we might be able to say that "death has no dominion," and we shall banish evil if only we believe in the supernatural power of the beloved. The metaphor might have been useful for Ptolemy to Aquinas but Copernicus slammed the door of ever hoping that the "supernatural" world would intervene in the affairs of the earth.

"You were ordained clergy?" my friend asks. "Yes, and a true one, too," I answer, which is beside the point. We are for the power of authenticity. What have we died from, and how did we rise on the other side of that death? That is the life question, my friend.

I trust you had a meaningful Easter beyond eggs and bunnies!

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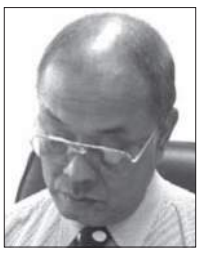
Assessing NMI at forty

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Though investment exodus has paralyzed the NMI since recent past, we retreat to a quiet corner disoriented, pondering, asking the inevitable: Why did this happen and is there anything we could do locally to neutralize vicious economic paralysis from a repeat of history?

Could we still hold unto suspect hope to see morning in the islands as we begin rebuilding our economic foundation painful as it may be? Could we see some leadership please?

This should be the focus over the next 40 years beyond convicting, commuting, and sending elected officials to federal penitentiaries, a humiliating chapter in our developmental history of so-called self-government.

Plebiscite: A mechanism is provided citizens to express their views, e.g., a plebiscite where they vote for or against an issue. It's a direct expression coming from "we the people." It removes disposition from the Legislature right into the hands of voters. Twice, the voters on Saipan shot down casino.

Yet, the elected elite trashed it as though it is solely its own to decide. Where's your comprehension of political maturity? Isn't the glaring and overwhelming voice of "we the people" sufficient for you to respect the democratic process? Or did you flunk your civics courses in high school as to blindly ignore the will of the people? Fodder for comedy of high school students Marianas-wide.

Stagnancy: Locally, the toxic Republican charge has done nothing but deepen the hardship in families throughout the NMI. Twenty-plus years of economic stagnancy or dystopia—where nothing works—frozen salaries that stayed the same while the cost of basic goods skyrockets like fireworks into the heavens.

Where did you park due diligence and vision? Or have you been using your outdated black and white television sets? Do you even know that paradigms and challenges have shifted in significant ways?

Poverty: Then there's the quiet trophy of some 51 percent of employees falling under federal poverty income level. Wow! What trophy sinking the quality of life among villagers. Do you now understand why I have been advocating for some fully thought out plan of sort to move the needle of growth forward? Or do we acquiesce the absence of such a plan to incompetency in the disposition of major issues? Need the voters revolt to bring some sense of common decency into your cranium?

Appropriation: In plain simple English, pertinent constitutional provision says all public funds must be approved via legislative appropriation. This provision said what it said and didn't say what it didn't say. In other words, it didn't grant legislative delegations the authority to appropriate funds.

In fact, all appropriations begin in the House of Representatives. Remember the funds handed the Settlement Fund but returned because it wasn't appropriated? It finally had to be appropriated, right? Halo?

Goes to show the retardant political maturity right here at home! Do you see why the $400K for the MV *Luta* is constitutionally prohibited?

Pension Reduction: The NMI Constitution prohibits the reduction of pension or retirement pay but this administration decided to cut 25 percent of it detracting. It's an admission that the NMI is financially stressed beyond description. But this setback didn't grant this administration the authority to cut retirement pay. Though the issue is debatable it remains a constitutional mandate.

In less than two-and-a-half years when every penny in pension investment is spent retirees would instantly suffer from unsolicited poverty. No longer could they expect remittance of their bi-monthly pay to their bank accounts. It's time to return to traditional subsistence form of lifestyle of farming and fishing.

The fund is owed some $789 million in "unfunded liability," coming from decisions made by former governors to skip employer's contribution since 1982. Is there a way the NMI could make good what it owes the program? Even with 15 more casinos there's nothing up that alley. Now, could the NMI reinstate the 25 percent it illegally deducted from retirees' paychecks? I'm listening!

Economy: The local economy peaked in the mid-'80s. When the feds denied the NMI control over its borders, the economy slowly declined and continuing in the same steady trip down south. For two years in a row, the NMI acknowledged budgetary shortfall of $9 million and $7 million, respectively. This while the archipelago wades in the red sea of deficit spending.

The NMI faces the end of CW workers by 2019. Would its efforts to train and educate more of its own ably meet the required number of professional and technical workers in private industries by then? There are 15,000 CW workers today. Do we have the reciprocal number to replace them? Isn't self-realization another drawback among locals needing training and education to fill job vacancies three years from now?

Leadership: If self-government is a mantra, take another look if we have factually undertaken serious measures to reduce bloated government payroll and expenses. Or is it more a case of not spending because there's nothing to spend? Do you see the absence of true north or leadership with a vision in this scenario? There's none!

Paradigm Shift: The economy has tanked and continues to sink turning stochastic or probabilistic in unbridled fashion beyond our comprehension.

The likelihood of the visa waiver program ending sometime next year makes reviving the fragile tourism industry even more problematic. In fact, Homeland Security has begun tightening the visa waiver program for some 30 countries.

The combined setback requires, yes, leadership with vision and enthusiasm to challenge conventional wisdom. Uncle Sam isn't sacrificing the security and safety of Americans because the NMI wants the back door for ISIS to slide into the country. Has so-called leadership considered the impending imposition from across the Pacific?

REFUGEE

From Page 10

ment. "We now need to see how this will be worked out in practice, in keeping with the safeguards set out in the agreement — many of which at present are not in place," it said.

One way to ease the pressure on all these countries is furnishing funds to help displaced Syrians closer to their former homes. The U.N. got pledges of $4.3 billion last year from member nations for this worthy purpose, but only 62 percent of the funds ever arrived. This year, only 5 percent of the $4.5 billion promised has been sent. If refugees were cared for well in the camps in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan, they would be less likely to wash up on the beaches of Lesbos.

With luck and resolve, the recent cessation of hostilities agreed on in Syria will hold and pave the way to a negotiated settlement of the civil war, allowing people forced out to return to their homes and rebuild their lives. Until then, this agreement is sadly necessary—Brussels or no.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Not the democracy we longed for

In Thursday's "NMI Marks 40th Year of Covenant" article, Mr. Ralph Torres said, "We initiated a government of the people, by the people, and for the people." This is not so, because there is no such thing to what is being said here. The phrases stated were Abraham Lincoln's characterization of democracy in his Gettysburg Address of 1863. True democracy has to do with a people such as the people of the CNMI ruling themselves in one form or another. To say that the CNMI people favor democracy as a system of governing, that conception is fair and acceptable. But, what democracy stands for still baffles scholars and practitioners with its vague and general form of agreement of what democracy really means. The perplexing question still leave a wide range of consensus, and we can check and only assume what Mr. Torres is actually saying.

Just a few days ago, the festive ceremonial event at the mouth of the port where the MV *Luta* anchored is case in point. The antithesis of this celebratory showcase was not part of the democracy that Mr. Torres was talking about reported in the article. The MV *Luta* behind the shadow of Mr. Victor Hocog, the audience of onlookers on Mr. Hocog and MV *Luta* reflects the democracy that churned the reality at the point of time. The democracy of transparency, accountability, efficiency, nepotism, greed and corruption, privilege, protest, profiteering, public interest, deceit, secrecy, favoritism, checks and balances, public purpose, honesty and integrity, and public good could not be the government that Mr. Torres is referring to.

What about when the Office of the Governor, the Legislature, and the elected AG violated the mandate of Article lll, Section 7 of the CNMI Constitution. Mr. Ralph Torres and Mr. Victor Hocog received the cork of unconstitutional rule erroneously opined by the elected AG. This is not a democracy aspired by Mr. Ralph Torres that baptizes the CNMI's as a democracy of the people, by the people, and for the people. Why the constitution was applicable in part and dismissive in others? That makes a case yet to be resolved under a democracy that we longed for.

If Article lll, Section 7 of the CNMI Constitution is written and read beginning with the last sentence, it may have resulted in a democracy that is constituted in the people's constitution of government of the people, by the people, and for the people. If the elected AG, the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the CNMI Election Commission misread and misinterpreted the language of Article lll, Section 7, then we are dealing with incompetents. This was not a result of legitimate excuses, but a situation reckoning as deliberate. Where is the government of the people, for the people, and by the people?

Three sentences form the basis of Article lll, Section 7 of the CNMI Constitution. The factorial value of these three sentences is 6 (1X2X3). This means that the elected AG, the Governor's Office, the Legislature must read and follow without exception the language part of the constitution in six different order combinations, and derive at the same conclusion. Obviously, the second sentence of Article lll, Section 7, is of no value because of the separation of power and conflict of interest in the constitution. The same effect results even if the last sentence becomes the first sentence as follows:

Section 7: An acting governor or lieutenant governor who assumes office when more than one year remains in the term may serve only until a governor or lieutenant governor is chosen in a special election provided by law. In case of removal, death, or resignation of the governor, the lieutenant governor shall become governor and the president of the senate shall become lieutenant governor.

Mr. Ralph Torres is mistaken with his assertive conception of democracy and suggests that his argument is polemically confused, at best. What supposedly pointed by our esteemed politician official I might have missed, nonetheless, it caught my attention. We do have a long ways towards maturity of governance in a democracy.

What constitutes government? Who is to rule whom and for what purpose? Who are the people? Or, is our democracy based on the Rule of, Rule by, and Rule for. Hence, what the antithesis of the MV *Luta* as a lesson in democracy could not grip well as fair, just and acceptable, and it has nothing to do with the conception of government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Our politicians must be guided that when their statement spew out into the public domain that becomes part of the public stock, and it could not be deleted once the imprint sails its course. I may appear harsh and abrasive here with this politician, but we need not be reminded as Mr. Victor Hocog suggests to be calm and keep a cool decorum when responding to bureaucrats' public statement. If any politician wished silencing the public is democracy that works, then think again. Do not put a footprint on the sand if you do not want people to see that you went there. Let's talk democracy, mean what you say, and know what you are saying, and that should not tatter you as a fool. When teetering on prepared material, then it is time to lash on the press secretary for the clumsy journalistic disservice to and for the governor's office. I think, therefore, I am. This is democracy, and it is part of the deal.

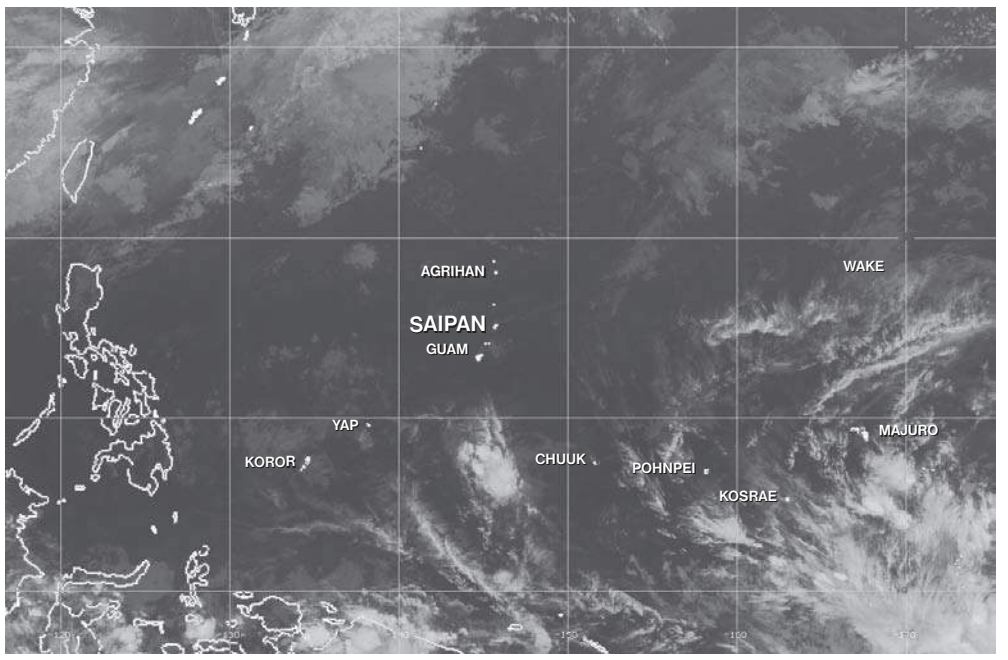
Francisco R. Agulto
Kanat Tabla

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.
▲88º ▼76º	▲88º ▼76º	▲87º ▼75º	▲87º ▼75º	▲87º ▼75º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly stationary front stretches southwestward from east of IWO to island at 25N143E to beyond 130E at 18N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary. A near equatorial trough curves southeastward from 6N130E to 2N140E to EQ163E. Scattered showers are found west and southwest of Koror Palau within 90 miles of line from 10N131E to 5N132E to 3N136E. Farther east, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located south of Pohnpei and Kosrae between 5N and the equator from 153E to 164E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers south of the Marshall Islands south of a line from 2N164E to 2N175E. Scattered showers are also found east of Butaritari and Tarawa atolls between 4N and 1N from 176E to 180. Trade-wind disturbances are producing scattered showers primarily north of the Marshall Islands between 15N and 8N from 168E to 172E and northeast of the Marshall Islands between 13N and 9N from 174E to 178E. A cold front runs southwestward from 25N174E to 21N161E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼72
Palau	Sunny	▲89	▼75
Yap	Sunny	▲92	▼75
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼70
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲86	▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Majuro	Sunny	▲86	▼75

Around the Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲72	▼60
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼20
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲68	▼46
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼63
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲52	▼38
Los Angeles	Haze	▲73	▼51
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼69
Melbourne	Sunny	▲63	▼46
Miami	Overcast	▲83	▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲53	▼34
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼39
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲55	▼41
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼32
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼45
Salem	Cloudy	▲51	▼38
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼44
Seoul	Sunny	▲59	▼25
Tokyo	Sunny	▲57	▼45
Washington, DC	Overcast	▲58	▼46

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:00 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
4:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:25 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:16 PM	9:17 AM
Tuesday	11:06 PM	10:02 AM
Wednesday	11:56 PM	10:48 AM
Thursday	-	11:38 AM
Friday	12:47 AM	12:30 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Anonymous donor to help Saipan Animal Shelter

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Many dogs and cats are up for adoption at the Saipan Animal Shelter. Photo shows Mana, who was adopted last week.

A prominent Saipan businessman and animal lover has stepped up and offered to pay any registration fees for any animal adopted from the Saipan Animal Shelter from Monday, March 28, through Thursday, March 31, the day the animal shelter is closing due to damage from Typhoon Soudelor. That means all dogs and cats at the shelter can now be taken home with registration fees paid for already!

"We wish we could share the name of this individual, but he would rather remain unknown to the public, and we can›t thank him enough for his help," said Beth Pliscou from Saipan Cares for Animals.

"I already have three cats and four dogs myself, and I've always been a big supporter of the Mayor's Animal Shelter and this is another way I can help. Don't use my name, I just want to help," said the mystery businessman.

Mayor David M. Apatang is continuing to offer families and individuals the opportunity to visit the shelter and pick out any healthy dog or cat and become a proud pet owner! Come visit the shelter from 7:30am to 4:30pm Monday, March 28, through Thursday, March 31. Give a cat or dog a chance to become your best friend from March 28-31, and the registration fees will be paid by this private businessman.

Efforts are still ongoing to secure another location for a shelter for Saipan's homeless animals.

Visit the animal shelter in Lower Base or call the Office of the Mayor of Saipan at 234-6208, or contact Spencer Marchadesch at 783-4743. You can also visit Saipan Cares for Animals on Facebook to see pictures and profiles of all the wonderful dogs and cats that are waiting and ready to go home with you!

More information is available at http://www.saipancaresforanimals.com/, and you can email Jason Hudy from Saipan Cares at Jason@JasonHudy.com. ***(PR)***

Saipan Tribune
Make it your DAILY habit.

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Sales Officer
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than April 01, 2016.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Saipan Adventures, Inc.
invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Customer Service Supervisor, Operations (4)
High School Diploma, GED, or equivalent. At least three (3) years work experience in a tour/travel agency, sales or service related work preferably with at least two (2) years of experience supervising a team of tour sales agents. Must be able to speak, read, write, and understand English and in Chinese (Mandarin) preferred. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to savi_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than April 06, 2016. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Applicants must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Saipan Adventures, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPY • CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB16-CCC-088 (1-30)

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 20, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF NUMEROUS ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENTS, COMPUTERS, PRINTERS, CAMERAS, FINGERPRINTING EQUIPMENT AND OTHER RELATED EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWARD C. DELEON GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP16-CHCC/CGC-002

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: April1, 2016 TIME: 10:00 AM

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CGC PREVENTION SERVICE UNIT

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC'S ACCOUNTING OFFICE, LOCATED AT DR. JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ CENTER. CHALAN HINEMLO ROAD, LOWER NAVY HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ STANLEY T. IAKOPO
CHCC, DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP16-CHCC/H.O.M.E-001

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: April 1, 2016 TIME: 3:00 PM

OFFICE FURNITURE FOR HEALTHY OUTCOMES FOR MATERNAL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD (H.O.M.E.) VISITING PROGRAM

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC'S ACCOUNTING OFFICE, LOCATED AT DR. JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ CENTER. CHALAN HINEMLO ROAD, LOWER NAVY HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ STANLEY T. IAKOPO
CHCC, DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP: RFP16-GOV-091

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 26, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"DEVELOPMENT PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTE, A PROJECT UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, SECOND FLOOR, JUAN A. BUILDING, IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. MATTHEW DELEON GUERRERO AT **matt.deleonguerrero@gov.mp** NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, APRIL 15, 2016.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RALPH DLG. TORRES
GOVERNOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING

This ad is paid for by the NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the designated Public Housing Authority (PHA) authorized to administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program in the CNMI. Federal guidelines provide that the CNMI prepare a PHA Annual Plan for the upcoming fiscal year. NMHC has completed the draft FY 2017 PHA Annual Plan and would like to inform the general public that:

1. NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public for the FY 2017 PHA Annual Plan on April 25, 2016, 3:00 p.m. at NMHC's Conference Room located at the main office in Garapan, Saipan; and
2. NMHC will open the public comment period from March 11, 2016 through April 25, 2016; written comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on April 25, 2016 to:
   - Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
     Attn: FY 2017 PHA Annual Plan
     P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950

Any interested persons wishing to express their views on the draft FY 2017 PHA Annual Plan may do so by either attending the public hearing or by submitting written comments to NMHC. Copies of the draft FY 2017 PHA Annual Plan are available for viewing on our website at www.nmhc.gov.mp and during normal business hours at the NMHC Main Office in Saipan, as well as the field offices on Tinian and Rota.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

CNMI Public School System
Interagency Coordinating Council

Early Intervention Services "The Key to the Future"

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its ICC Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, at CDAC Office in Garapan, Saipan. This meeting is open to the public; interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
- a. Roll Call
- b. Presence of a Quorum
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes

II. Coordinator Reports
- a. Part C Grant Application
- b. SSIP Indicator Eleven

III. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 237-3029/19. Several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Margaret Aldan
Chairwoman

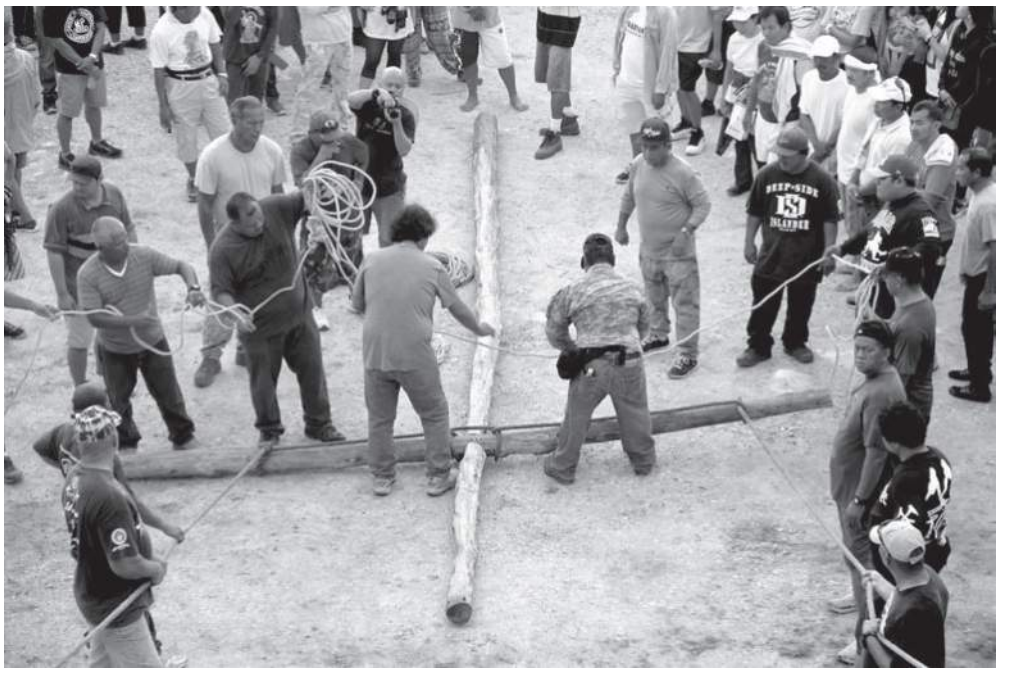
/s/ Robin L. Palacios
Interim Coordinator,
Early Intervention Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part C Funds.

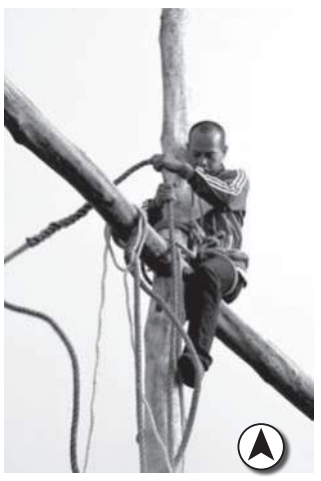
2016 Mt. Tapochau Good Friday Trek

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

The crowd gathers around the cross for a short prayer service.



Volunteers tie ropes on the cross before it was pulled on top of the hill.



Ronnie Lanuza loosens the ropes that were tied to the cross after volunteers successfully erected it on the hill.

Volunteers worked their way in dragging the cross up to the hill.

Volunteers carry the cross on their way to the last curb before reaching the peak.

Religious and lay people from San Vicente Parish pray the rosary while the cross was being carried to the top.

Members of the United Filipino Organization offer warm snacks and other refreshments.

Pilgrims use the stairs to reach Christ's image and get a 360-degree view of the island.

Members of the TAU GAMMA PHI/SIGMA-Northern Mariana Islands Council (NMIC) give out water and milk to all who trekked up Mt. Tapochau last Friday.

Saipan Mayor's Office staff gives out water to all who reached the top of Mt. Tapochau.

Kilili: Happy birthday, Affordable Care Act

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) celebrated last Friday the 6th anniversary of President Obama's signing of the Affordable Care Act.

Sablan said Kagman Community Health Center Board members—Dr. Ignacia Demapan, Fernando Camacho, Lennie Hermosilla, and Velma Palacios—and executive director Vince Castro met with him in Washington, D.C. last week for an update on their work bringing much-needed, primary care health services to residents of Kagman, Dandan, San Vicente, As Teo, and the surrounding areas of Saipan.

Because of the hard work and vision of these individuals and others over many years the Kagman Community Health Center finally was able to open its doors in 2013. And they are now looking to do the same for Tinian and Rota.

One other thing that made the Health Center possible was the Affordable Care Act—or Obamacare—which provided the money: $2,983,850 so far for the Kagman facility.

"I want to acknowledge this important contribution the Affordable Care Act is making to our community, especially this week, when Obamacare celebrates its 6th anniversary. But the Affordable Care Act did more than open the Kagman Community Health Center. It kept our only hospital open, too."

Sablan said just when the Commonwealth government cut support for the hospital, the Affordable Care Act stepped in with an extra $109 million for the Northern Marianas Medicaid program. And over the years, good management by the Medicaid office and the hospital has been able to draw down $55 million of the Obamacare money—about $1 million every month.

"Without that funding lifeline our only hospital might well have closed," said Sablan.

The Commonwealth Health Center will continue to be able to use those Affordable Care Act/Medicaid dollars until they are gone in 2019.

"But what happens then? Some say, 'rip up' Obamacare, get rid of it. Don't they understand how important this landmark law is to the health of the people of our islands?" said Sablan.

According to Sablan, President Obama wants to expand Medicaid to treat the Northern Marianas just like a U.S. state. That would mean an unlimited amount of federal money for the CNMI, a much lower local share, and no end of funding in 2019.

CONTRIBUTEDPHOTO

Kagman Community Health Center directors—Dr. Ignacia Demapan, Fernando Camacho, Lennie Hermosilla, and Velma Palacios—and executive director Vince Castro met with Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan in Washington, D.C. recently for an update on the Health Center. Also on hand were community health center officials Annie Mesa Makepeace, Ben Meno, and Mintina Shimizu from Guam; Teruo Chokai from Palau; Dr. Angelica Agapito from Yap; Dr. Tholman Alik and Jacob George from Kosrae; Johnny Choban from Ebeye, Marshall Islands; and Arielle Buyum from the Pacific Islands Primary Care Association.

"I agree with the President. On this 6th birthday of the Affordable Care Act we should not be talking about killing the program, we should be keeping our hospital open, keeping the Kagman Community Health Center open, and giving thousands of people in our islands access to the medical care they need. Happy Birthday, Affordable Care Act!"

Sablan has represented the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in the United States House of Representatives since 2009. ***(PR)***

Century Tours, Inc.

invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Accountant (2)
Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with at least three (3) years work experience in general and financial accounting, preferably in tour operation, sales or service based work environment. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software. Previous experience with HR Information and/or Enterprise Resource Planning Systems is an advantage.

Accountant (2 Part-Time)
Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with at least three (3) years work experience in general and financial accounting, preferably in tour operation, sales or service based work environment. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software. Previous experience with HR Information and/or Enterprise Resource Planning Systems is an advantage.

Accounting Manager (1)
College degree in finance, accounting, economics, or business administration and five (5) years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of three (3) years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Customer Service Agent (6)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Agent (6 Part-Time)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Supervisor, Retail (2)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. At least one (1) to two (2) years of related supervisory experience in a luxury retail environment. Must have the knowledge and computer skills to handle the POS register and other operations and communication systems.

Operations Manager (1)
College or Associate's degree in Management, Travel and Tour or any related field. At least three (3) years of progressive management experience in tour and travel operations is required. Written and verbal communications skills in English and Chinese (Mandarin) preferred, must be able to communicate with Chinese vendors and suppliers. Must be willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Sales Associate, Retail (4)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. Prior experience in luxury retail sales is preferred including the ability to read, speak and understand English and Chinese (Mandarin). Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Must be familiar with the Point-Of-Sales (POS) System. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Sales Associate (10 Part-Time)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. Prior experience in luxury retail sales is preferred including the ability to read, speak and understand English and Chinese (Mandarin). Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Must be familiar with the Point-Of-Sales (POS) System.

Tour Sales Representative (18)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. A minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in a related field. Work experience with travel and tour operation is an advantage. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Russian, Korean, or Chinese languages.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com.
To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than April 06, 2016. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Applicants must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fourteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Emergency Operations Center in Building 1254 in Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. October 8, 2015 Special Board Meeting
   b. December 17, 2015 Regular Board Meeting
   c. January 14, 2016 Regular Board Meeting
   d. March 14, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

II. Public Comments [1]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
   a. FPA
   b. ISA
   c. LIA
   d. SICPP
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Other matters

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. Proclamation
   a. School Library Month
   b. Chamorro and Carolinian Language Heritage Studies Month
2. Resolution
   a. Pacific Circle Consortium - Resolution No. 2016-01
3. Early Head Start (EHS) Program
   a. FY15-16 EHS/Child Care Partnership Budget Revision
   b. FY15-16 EHS/Child Care Partnership Supplemental Grant Application
   c. SY15-16 Self-Assessment Plan/Timeline
   d. SY15-16 Community Assessment Plan/Timeline
4. Early Intervention Program Grants Application and Budget
5. PSS MOU for Project Leliyal Akkabwung Language Immersion to ANA
6. FY2015 Audit
7. Certification and Licensure Matters
   a. CLO Report No. 2016-003

VI. Executive Session [2]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Administrative Matters

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

DOI approves $1.4M in FY 2016 grants for CNMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina approved $1.4 million in grant assistance for fiscal year 2016 to support initiatives of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The funds are allocated from the Office of Insular Affairs' (OIA) Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and the Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP).

"I am pleased to support Governor Ralph Torres and the people of the Northern Marianas in a variety of projects that impact quality of life issues, promote government efficiency, and improve climate change adaptation and invasive species coordination," said Kia'aina.

The various TAP grants awarded for FY 2016, including one MAP grant follows:

■ CNMI Fixed Flex (Bus) Express Pilot Program—$344,293 to the Commonwealth Office of Transportation Authority to implement the CNMI's first public transit system. Funds will be used to acquire one medium-duty bus and cover associated operating expenses to run public transportation service along the southern end of the business district of Garapan to the Northern Marianas College, servicing key points along the way. This first route has the highest population density of the entire Fixed-Flex System. The objective is to provide a public transportation alternative to CNMI residents and visitors, reducing traffic congestion, carbon emissions, accidents, and fuel costs while improving air quality.

Kia'aina

■ Beach Restoration Study in Garapan—$150,000 to the U.S. Army Corps to conduct a technical study of Garapan shoreline erosion that will result in a report with recommendations and cost estimates for future restoration actions. The study, which projects shoreline usefulness and function out 50 years, will take into account how climate change and sea-level rise will impact the project and design.

■ Climate Change and Invasive Species Coordinators—$286,000 to the Bureau of Coastal and Environmental Quality and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to better coordinate climate change and invasive species policies and initiatives across CNMI agencies and in coordination with federal and regional officials and initiatives.

■ Online Portal for CNMI Government Services—$255,578 will be provided to the Department of Commerce to establish an online portal to streamline government services for residents in the territory. The online portal will facilitate social services provision, tax e-filing, business license and tax filing, driver's license issuance and renewal. The portal will serve as a virtual one-stop help center for the CNMI government.

■ Regional Weights and Measurements Capacity Building Professional Development—$88,977 to the Department of Commerce Division of Enforcement and Compliance for building capacity in the CNMI and the region on meeting the requirements of the weights and measures standards and regulations established by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology. Funds will be used for a regional conference, including training and certification of weights and measures inspectors, and the implementation of new equipment and tools to allow for uniformity of measurement techniques for the CNMI and the region. More than 6,000 forty-foot containers arrive at the Saipan seaport each year and the CNMI estimates $3 million in annual losses to fraud due to inaccurate weights and measurements.

■ Emergency Vehicle—$150,000 to the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services to purchase a fully equipped ambulance for emergency medical service operations on Saipan.

Maintenance Assistance Program

■ Upgrade Capacity for Northern Islands Telecommunications—$98,630 for the acquisition of reliable telecommunication units to replace and upgrade dilapidated single sideband radios (acquired in 1985) with antenna units for the residents and community workers living in the Northern Islands, including Pagan, Anatahan, Agrihan, and Alamagan. Telecommunication Units will be used to inform officials in Saipan on climate change and weather related activities, military exercises, border control, potential criminal activities, and other emergency needs as arise. Funds will also be used to procure photovoltaic panels to run the telecommunication units. All-terrain vehicles will also be acquired to support transportation and emergency needs.

The Department of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Office of Insular Affairs mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas. ***(PR)***

HHS VISITS SAIPAN CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region IX director Melissa Stafford-Jones, third from left, visited Saipan last week and met with Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officials to discuss health services in the CNMI. She also met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and the Legislative Health Committee leaders from the Senate and the House. Stafford-Jones also visited other Pacific islands including Guam and Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Island.

Over 200 job positions available at BSI

There are over 200 job positions needing to be filled within Best Sunshine International, Ldt. affording employment opportunities for jobseekers eager to be part of the commonwealth's largest private employer.

These employment opportunities further expand the growing local job sector as a result of BSI's multibillion-dollar investment in the CNMI. These opportunities are now readily available in the CNMI and more information can be obtained through the weekly job fair of BSI.

BSI's talent acquisition team launched a weekly job fair, which kicked off this past Thursday at the HR Talent Acquisition office, located in the Casa de Felipe building in Garapan.

According to Maggie Attao, Best Sunshine's talent acquisition assistant manager, over 120 potential applicants attended the initial job fair, and a fair amount were hired immediately.

"The turnout was quite amazing. We had over 120 walk-ins. These individuals filled out job applications for the various positions that Best Sunshine has to offer," Attao stated.

Among the various job positions presented at the job fair, 10 individuals were immediately offered housekeeping attendant positions, which consequently filled all the vacant housekeeping attendant openings at BSI.

"We had an immediate need to hire housekeeping attendants and we were able to fulfill the weekly requirement of that hiring section today alone. This week we needed 10 attendants." Attao confirmed.

Best Sunshine's talent acquisition team also immediately hired other individuals for other positions.

"Other than the housekeeping attendants that were hired today, we hired cooks for the soon-to-open Sunshine Cafe and Hot Pot restaurants", Attao added.

Sunshine Cafe and Hot Pot, both restaurants owned by BSI, have yet to open their doors. When asked why they are hiring for positions for restaurants not opened yet, Attao stated "We try to hire our staff early so that they can go through the proper training before actually starting the job." Other positions available include marketing ambassadors, stewards, Human Resource representatives and managers, general ledger accountants, managers for VIP operations, VIP drivers, food and beverage servers and supervisors, slot representatives, and other jobs essential to the operations of an integrated resort and casino.

Best Sunshine encourages those seeking job and career opportunities to attend the job fair. Attao stated on behalf of BSI, "Through this, we want the general public to come in, meet us and see what opportunities we have to offer as a company. This will be an ongoing event that takes place every Thursday until we inform otherwise.

Best Sunshine International prioritizes locals and U.S.-eligible workers. Job fairs will be held weekly until most of the positions are filled. If interested, these weekly job fairs will be from 10am to 5pm at the HR talent acquisition office, in the Casa de Felipe building, located on Flores Rosa St. in Garapan. For more information, please contact the HR office at (670) 237-9033.

The applications and resumes received will be stored in an application bank which will be useful for the recruitment process once the Grand Mariana Resort is up and running. ***(PR)***

Navy to conduct Training at W-517

ASAN, Guam—The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 March 29-31 from noon to 8 p.m.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the area during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055. ***(PR)***

SSHS prom hot lunch postponed to April 2

The Saipan Southern High School prom committee's hot lunch has been postponed from March 27, 2016 to April 2, 2016 from 11am to 1pm. You must present your ticket stub to claim your lunch box. Walk-ins will be accepted at 12pm. All proceeds will go toward the annual Junior-Senior Prom and class of 2017's graduation funds. ***(PR)***

Business

Deal reached to take California minimum wage to $15 an hour

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California legislators and labor unions have reached a tentative agreement that will take the state's minimum wage from $10 to $15 an hour, a state senator said, a move that would make for the largest statewide minimum in the nation by far.

"This is not a done deal," Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, told The Associated Press on Saturday. "Everyone's been operating in good faith and we hope to get it through the Legislature."

Leno said if an agreement is finalized, it would go before the Legislature as part of his minimum-wage bill that stalled last year.

If the Legislature approves a minimum-wage package, it would avoid taking the issue to the ballot. One union-backed initiative has already qualified for the ballot, and a second, competing measure is also trying to qualify.

"This is an issue I've been working on for many years," Leno said. "The governor and stakeholders have all been negotiating earnestly and in good faith for some time."

Leno did not confirm specifics of the agreement, but most proposals have the wage increasing about a dollar per year until it reaches $15 per hour.

The Los Angeles Times, which first reported the deal, said the wage would rise to $10.50 in 2017, to $11 an hour in 2018, and one dollar per year to take it to $15 by 2022. Businesses with fewer than 25 employees would have an extra year to comply.

At $10 an hour, California already has one of the highest minimum wages in the nation along with Massachusetts. Only Washington, D.C., at $10.50 per hour is higher. The hike to $15 would make it the highest statewide wage in the nation by far, though raises are in the works in other states that might change by the time the plateau is reached in 2022.

Some states have passed higher minimums for government employees and state-contracted workers, and some cities including Seattle have already passed $15 an hour increases.

And Oregon officials approved a law earlier this month that will increase that state's minimum wage to nearly $15 in urban areas over the next six years.

Massachusetts finalizes comprehensive fantasy sports rules

BOSTON (AP)—Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey issued rules Friday for daily fantasy sports operators that she called the most comprehensive in the nation, including a minimum age of 21 for participating in the online contests.«

The final regulations are largely the same as the ones Healey, a Democrat, proposed in November. They also bar games based on college or amateur sports, and individual players could not spend more than $1,000 each month without proof they could withstand deep financial losses.

Operators such as Boston-based DraftKings and New York-based FanDuel will also be required under the rules to offer "beginner" contests that highly experienced players would be prevented from entering.

Healey, who said the regulations will create a "level, fair playing field" for participants, opted for a different approach to fantasy sports than counterparts in some states, notably New York, where Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has argued the sites amounted to illegal gambling.

Under an agreement reached earlier this week, DraftKings and FanDuel agreed to stop taking bets in New York while lawmakers consider whether to legalize the games.

The Massachusetts rules do not require legislative approval and will take effect July 1, though Healey said she expected companies to begin moving toward compliance immediately.

DraftKings said it would "fully comply" with the new regulations.

"We will continue to work with policymakers across the country to ensure that fantasy contests are fun and fair for the tens of millions of sports fans who enjoy playing them," CFO Tim Dent said in a statement.

FanDuel thanked Healey for taking a "deliberate, comprehensive approach" to fantasy sports. The company in its statement said it had concerns that some regulations might restrict "new pro-consumer innovations," but it would also work to be in full compliance.

Tycoon behind Syngenta bid China's most aggressive dealmaker

BEIJING (AP)—The tycoon who is offering $43 billion for Swiss agrochemicals giant Syngenta keeps a low profile, but is China's most aggressive dealmaker.

Ren Jianxin, chairman of state-owned ChemChina, is behind most of China's big foreign acquisitions, from Italian tire brand Pirelli to Norwegian chemical supplier Elkem and KraussMaffei, a German industrial machinery maker.

Since 2010, Ren has splashed out an eye-popping $63.9 billion on foreign assets, some 60 percent more than the No. 2 Chinese buyer, according to Dealogic, a financial data provider.

It is unusually ambitious, but Ren is an unusual figure—a private entrepreneur who built an empire by gobbling up more than 100 state-owned enterprises.

ChemChina, also known as China National Chemical Corp., already is one of China's biggest companies, with $45 billion in 2015 revenue. Its 140,000 employees include 48,000 abroad in 140 countries.

Its acquisitions reflect the appetite of cash-rich but young Chinese companies for foreign technology and brands. Some want to sharpen their competitive edge at home. Others want to get into more profitable global markets as Chinese economic growth slows.

Chinese acquisitions include Swedish automaker Volvo, French tourism company Club Med and the American cinema chain AMC.

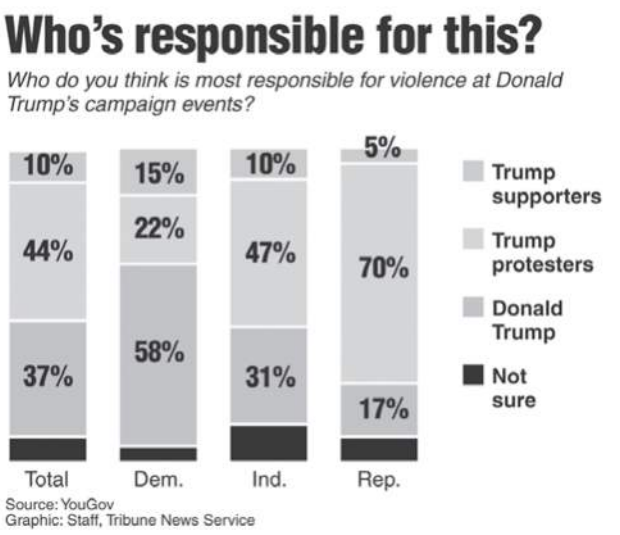
Ren, 58, started out by founding a maker of solvents, Bluestar Co., with seven employees in 1984 in the northwestern city of Lanzhou, far from China's eastern industrial heartland. The Pirelli website calls him "the pioneer of China's modern cleaning industry."

Unlike other state industry managers who are career bureaucrats, Ren can draw on that experience to talk to foreign executives, said Andre Loesekrug-Pietri, chairman of A Capital, a private equity fund in Beijing. He said Ren also has recruited a handful of Western executives, bringing in knowledge of foreign business cultures.

Nation

Protests against Trump risk backlash in GOP primary

FOUNTAIN HILLS, Ariz. (AP)—David Rau wasn't sure about Donald Trump. So the landscape contractor strolled over to the main park in this Phoenix suburb to watch one of the businessman's recent rallies and decide for himself.



Demonstrators pulled their cars across an access road to block people driving to the event. Dozens marched to the park and stood by Rau, chanting "Stop the hate!" as he tried to listen. He left a Trump convert. "I've got the right to listen to somebody speak, don't I?" Rau asked.

Trump's rise in the Republican presidential contest has sparked increasingly confrontational protests, mobilized his opponents and drawn scrutiny of the GOP front-runner's rhetoric and the sometimes rough way his campaign handles dissent. But as demonstrators escalate their tactics, they also risk helping Trump, especially among Republican voters his rivals are furiously trying to persuade to reject the billionaire businessman.

"I encourage people to speak out against Trump in a forceful but respectful manner because some of these protests are only serving to help him," said Tim Miller, a spokesman for a Republican group trying to stop Trump. "He continues to dominate the news, he can play the 'us vs. them' card when liberals disrupt his events and that serves as a rallying point for his candidacy."

Even Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, running for the Democratic presidential nomination, has been troubled by protesters' tactics, as well as by Trump's response.

Sanders wins 2 states; Clinton retains big delegate lead

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bernie Sanders scored a duo of wins in Western caucus contests Saturday, giving a powerful psychological boost to his supporters but doing little to move him closer to securing the Democratic nomination.

While results in Washington and Alaska barely dented Hillary Clinton's significant delegate lead, Sanders' wins underscored her persistent vulnerabilities within her own party, particularly with young voters and liberal activists who have been inspired by her rival's unapologetically liberal message. The two Democrats were also competing in Hawaii.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Sanders cast his performance as part of a Western comeback, saying he expects to close the delegate gap with Clinton as the contest moves to the more liberal northeastern states, including her home state of New York. He also said his campaign is increasing its outreach to superdelegates, the party insiders who can pick either candidate, and are overwhelmingly with Clinton.

"The Deep South is a very conservative part of the country," he said. "Now that we're heading into a progressive part of the country, we expect to do much better."

He added: "There is a path to victory." With Clinton far in front, however, it is a difficult path.

Clinton anticipated the losses: She barely campaigned in the three states, making just one day of stops in Washington state, and was spending the Easter weekend with her family.

ACROSS THE NATION

Chinese herbalist's family of 3 killed, man arrested

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A popular practitioner of Chinese herbal medicine was found shot to death and wrapped in plastic along with his wife and 5-year-old daughter in their palatial two-story home in upscale Santa Barbara County. More than 170 miles to the south, a 27-year-old suspect was arrested in the San Diego area. Investigators were exploring the links between the two men on Saturday, which would have been the little girl's sixth birthday, authorities said. The two men were recently involved in a business deal, and financial gain could have been a motive in the slayings, authorities said. Pierre Haobsh, 27, of Oceanside was taken into custody at gunpoint at a gas station in San Diego County, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bob Brown said Friday. A loaded handgun and property belonging to one of the victims was found inside the car, the sheriff said.

14-year-old New Mexico girl arrested for torching home

ROSWELL, N.M. (AP)—A 14-year-old Roswell girl is being charged with deliberately burning down her home. Police say the teen was booked this week into Chaves County Juvenile Detention Center for suspected arson. Authorities believe she started the fire Wednesday just before 2 p.m. after arguing with her stepmother. Police say they had been fighting about the girl skipping school. The stepmother and her two sons then went outside. That is when the fire erupted. Fire investigators discovered a bottle of charcoal lighter fluid in the backyard and believe it was an accelerant to start the fire. One male at the scene was hospitalized for possible smoke inhalation. Authorities brought the blaze under control within half an hour but say the home is a total loss. Police did not identify the family.

Asia

Philippine mayor guns for top office with vow to bury crime

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Nicknamed "Duterte Harry," after a Clint Eastwood character with little regard for rules, the Philippine city mayor casually threatens to shoot criminals, hang them using laundry line or drown them in Manila Bay. His expletives have sideswiped even the deeply revered pope.

Despite such brazen talk, Rodrigo Duterte has emerged as a top contender in Philippine presidential elections on May 9 in an impressive political rise that has been likened to Donald Trump's. The tough-talking mayor finds the comparison offensive and draws the line.

"Donald Trump is a bigot, I am not," Duterte told The Associated Press, referring to Trump's proposals to ban Muslims entering the U.S and erect a wall along the Mexican border.

Duterte, 70, built a political name with his iron-fist approach to fighting crime in southern Davao city, where he has served as mayor for 22 years. He has been credited for turning the vast port region of about 1.5 million people from a Marxist insurgency-wracked murder capital in the 1980s to one of a few Philippine cities with a reputation for law and order and economic vibrancy.

AP

In this March 10, 2016 photo, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte talks to the media prior to addressing seafarers organization in Manila, Philippines.

A lawyer, former government prosecutor and congressman, Duterte is the son of a former Davao provincial governor who grew up in a middle-class family that valued integrity. He has a penchant for mischief and recalls his mother, a school teacher, often punished him for misconduct by ordering him to kneel with hands extended sideways in front of a statue of Jesus Christ. He was once kicked out of high school for involvement in a brawl.

In Davao, Duterte has patrolled streets at night on a Harley Davidson and at times driven a taxi to try to catch robbers preying on drivers. He banned smoking and reportedly once forced a foreigner to chew a cigarette stick for violating the ordinance. Firecrackers, which kill and injure hundreds in the country during New Year's revelries, are prohibited and a nighttime curfew for minors has eased juvenile delinquency.

North Korea warns of strike on Seoul's presidential palace

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea warned Saturday that its military is ready to attack Seoul's presidential palace unless South Korean President Park Geun-hye apologizes for "treason" and publicly executes officials responsible for what Pyongyang says are plans to attack its leadership.

The warning, issued by state media in the name of a unit of the Korean People's Army, is the latest in a barrage of threats against Washington and Seoul over joint military drills now underway that the North sees as a dress rehearsal for invasion. It also came shortly after a North Korean propaganda outlet posted a video depicting a nuclear attack on Washington, D.C.

The joint military exercises are held annually, but tensions are particularly high this year because the drills are bigger than ever and come on the heels of North Korea's recent nuclear test and rocket launch. Further angering Pyongyang have been reports in South Korean media that this year's exercises include simulated training for a "decapitation strike" targeting North Korea's top leaders.

The warning Saturday said the South Korean presidential palace is within striking range of the North's artillery units, and that if an order to attack is made it is "just a click away."

North Korea is believed to have artillery capable of striking Seoul with little or no warning and causing severe damage and casualties in the city of 10 million. A strike on Seoul, however, is highly unlikely, and Pyongyang has previously issued similar threats without following through.

There were few signs Saturday of the heightened tensions in Pyongyang, where residents went about their daily routines as usual.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan's Abe taps experts as he mulls delaying 2nd tax hike

TOKYO (AP)—The scene: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the economy minister and top central banker receiving a lecture from Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz. The message: No matter how bad the debt, Japan's economy is too weak to withstand another tax hike. All is not well in the world's third-largest economy, and Abe is seeking fresh advice from top experts, both foreign and Japanese, on what to do next. Japan's economy initially expanded under a policy mix dubbed "Abenomics" that included monetary easing and fiscal stimulus.

Taiwan's Nationalists elect their 1st female leader

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's China-friendly Nationalist Party has elected its first female leader after ousting her as its presidential candidate ahead of January elections that were won by pro-independence rivals. The Kuomintang had ditched Hung Hsiu-chu as her abrasive style and strongly pro-China positions were seen as alienating voters. The veteran legislator and former teacher was elected as leader over three other candidates Saturday and likely faces a difficult time rebuilding the party after its January electoral defeat. Hung takes over from Eric Chu, who was the party's eventual presidential candidate and who resigned as party chairman after the defeat.

World

Belgium charges 3 more attacks suspects with terror offenses

BRUSSELS (AP)—Belgian prosecutors announced they have charged three men with terror offenses over the suicide attacks on the Brussels airport and subway, as organizers canceled a solidarity rally at the government's request because police are too strapped to cope.

At a news conference in Brussels Saturday, officials confirmed that 24 of the 31 people killed in the attacks Tuesday had been identified, and a doctor who had served in Afghanistan said he and his colleagues have been shocked by the extreme burns suffered by some of the 270 people wounded.

Federal prosecutors said a man identified as Faycal C., who was arrested Thursday, has been charged with "involvement in a terrorist group, terrorist murder and attempted terrorist murder."

Belgian media say he is Faycal Cheffou, the man in the light vest and hat pictured on security video with two men who blew themselves up at the airport. Cheffou is described as a local activist known to police for trying to rally asylum-seekers and homeless people to radical Islam.

Prosecutors would not confirm the Belgian media reports. A police raid was conducted at his home but no arms or explosives were found, they said.

Two other suspects detained on Thursday and identified as Raba N. and Aboubakar A. were charged with "involvement in the activities of a terrorist group." In addition, a man named as Abderamane A. who was taken into custody on Friday after he was shot by police at a Brussels tram stop is being held for at least 24 more hours.

In Italy on Sunday, police said they arrested an Algerian wanted by Belgium for facilitating travel of illegal migrants in connection with the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris. Authorities believe both the Brussels attacks and the Paris bombings that killed 130 people were plotted from Belgium.

The suicide bombings during Tuesday's peak morning travel time at the Brussels Airport and a city subway station killed 31 people, officials confirmed Saturday. That toll is likely to rise as some body parts have still not been identified, they said.

Teen in north Cameroon says she is a missing Chibok girl

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (AP)—A teenager who surrendered before carrying out a suicide bombing attack in northern Cameroon has told authorities she was one of the 276 girls abducted from a Nigerian boarding school by Islamic extremists nearly two years ago, authorities said Saturday.

If confirmed the development would mark the first news of the missing Chibok girls in many months. It has long been feared that some are being used by their Boko Haram abductors to carry out such attacks given the growing number of young female suicide bombers.

The girl is about 15 years old and turned herself in before detonating her explosives, said Idrissou Yacoubou, the leader of a self-defense group in Limani, Cameroon.

"The girl looked tired, malnourished and psychologically tortured and could not give us more details about her stay in the forest and how her other mates were treated," he said.

Cameroon has ordered investigations to determine the authenticity of the 15-year-old's declarations, said Midjiyawa Bakari, governor of the Far North region. Cameroonian authorities declined to identify her by name because she is a minor.

The office of Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari and Nigeria's military did not immediately respond to questions sent on a public holiday.

Authorities said Saturday along with the 15-year-old two other young women came with explosive belts—one was arrested and the other managed to flee back across the border into Nigeria.

In Chibok, a community leader said by telephone that the girl's age could correspond to that of a 14-year-old who was the youngest among 276 girls abducted in the early hours of April 15 from a government boarding school. Dozens of the girls managed to escape on their own within hours, but 219 remain missing.

WORLD BRIEFS

Syrian troops drive IS out of historic Palmyra

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Syrian state media and an opposition monitoring group say government forces backed by Russian airstrikes have driven Islamic State fighters from the historic central town of Palmyra, held by the extremists since May. Government forces have been on the offensive for nearly three weeks to try to retake the town, which is home to famed Roman-era ruins and was once one of Syria's top tourist destinations. State TV quoted an unnamed military official as saying that "the armed forces and groups of popular defense committees have fully taken control of Palmyra." The popular defense committees are militias allied with the government. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed IS has lost the town,

Christians in Holy Land, across world celebrate Easter

JERUSALEM (AP)—Christians in the Holy Land and across the world are celebrating Easter, commemorating the day followers believe Jesus was resurrected in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. The cavernous Holy Sepulcher church in Jerusalem was packed with worshippers on Sunday. The site is where Christians believe Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected. A Mass is expected later in Bethlehem's Nativity Church, built atop the site where Christians believe Jesus was born. At the Vatican, Pope Francis presided over a solemn vigil service Saturday night. In his homily, Francis said darkness and fear must not prevail and "imprison" the world with pessimism. The call to hope on the eve of the most joyful celebration in the Christian calendar contrasted sharply with his condemnation of the attacks in Belgium and elsewhere by Islamic extremists.

Health & Fitness

Mindfulness exercises help troubled teens cope with life

By MEREDITH COHN
THE BALTIMORE SUN

BALTIMORE—When 16-year-old Kirsten White is in class and feels distracted, frustrated or angry, she looks at the tiles on the ceiling or the bricks on the walls and counts them.

It gives her the chance to pause and think before she acts.

"I take a minute, and no one realizes it," the Annapolis teenager says. "It calms me."

The mindfulness exercise is one of many she's learned and embraced in a residential program at Sheppard Pratt, a psychiatric hospital in Towson, where she has been living and going to school since November. The training has helped her cope with the burdens of her young life, which have included bullying, emotional problems and self-harm.

Mindfulness meditation is an ancient spiritual practice that was introduced into health care in the 1970s by a University of Massachusetts professor of medicine who believed it could help patients reduce stress. The practice continues to spread, with classes offered in offices, universities, hospitals and online to help promote relaxation and focus.

Now, as science begins to back up the benefits, mindfulness is being adopted in clinical settings to help providers and patients manage a host of disorders.

The idea is to focus intensely on the present, emptying the mind of outside influences, judgments or stressors, says Tess Carpenter, clinical director of residential programs at Sheppard Pratt.

Mindfulness is the core of the institution's Mann Residential Treatment Program, the behavioral training program launched in 2011 to help troubled teens tolerate distress and improve emotional and interpersonal responses in situations they find overwhelming.

The patients have diagnoses that include attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety.

Carpenter calls mindfulness "very abstract in nature" and tough to teach. Research shows it doesn't work on everyone. Some people don't take to it, just as plenty of people don't get the benefits of yoga, which embraces similar themes.

Kirsten, who's in 10th grade, says she was one of those people. When a counselor proposed the therapy, she was hesitant. She ultimately decided to give it a try.

MCT

Corey Johnson Jr., left, and Kirsten White are young adults that are in the Mann Residential Treatment Center in Baltimore.

MCT

Corey Johnson Jr. surveys a mural where patients have painted things they think are worth living for on Feb. 22, 2016 at the Mann Residential Treatment Center in Baltimore.

Students in the treatment center repeat the exercises daily while also participating in more traditional therapy.

Counselors have the teens stare at their thumbs, or blow up balloons and bat them in the air for a few minutes.

That teaches them to concentrate on an activity, Carpenter says, filtering out distractions. In the real world, it could snap them out of an overly emotional situation and give them a window of time to rethink their response.

It's using "your wise mind," Carpenter said.

Dr. Carl Fulwiler, medical director and associate research director for the Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care and Society at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, says there's now a critical mass of studies showing mindfulness exercises are effective in helping to control stress, pain, weight and depression.

There are some problems, such as anxiety disorders in which patients can't focus, where the practice hasn't been proved effective, Fulwiler says. Outside a clinical setting, mindfulness can be harmful — as when it brings up buried memories or repressed feelings.

But with pain, for example, mindfulness may reduce suffering by making the brain less sensitive to what's happening in the body, he says. In other cases, such as when people cope with stress by eating, drinking alcohol or taking drugs, mindfulness can help people become more aware and make different choices.

"It's how we react to things that mindfulness can help," Fulwiler says. "It's not a total panacea."

In a 2014 study of 47 mindfulness-based trials, researchers at the Johns Hopkins University said they found enough evidence of its benefits that doctors should be prepared to talk to patients about it. They also concluded that more study into who would benefit is warranted.

Fulwiler is looking at the benefits to minorities, who have not traditionally been included in studies. Hopkins researchers are examining the effects of mindfulness on Baltimore's urban youth.

Fulwiler is using brain imaging to determine which patients would gain from mindfulness training. Several researchers have found the practice changes the brain.

In one study, published in January in the journal Biological Psychiatry, 35 adults who were experiencing the stress of unemployment were either taught mindfulness meditation or general relaxation techniques over three days.

MCT

Tess Carpenter, Psy.D., Clinical Director at Mann Residential Programs, speaks on Feb. 222, 2016 in Baltimore. Mindfulness, a kind of meditation, has become a buzzword and lots of people are using it to help reduce all kinds of stress. But Sheppard Pratt is using it as a clinical tool to help kids with ADHD and other issues.

Using brain scans, researchers found only mindfulness exercises caused an increase in activity in the part of the brain responsible for reactions to stress and cognition. By looking at blood samples, they discovered a reduction in a chemical that causes inflammation, which can harm the immune system and lead to disease. Those benefits seemed to endure for months.

It's that kind of science that is propelling mindfulness into the mainstream, says lead researcher J. David Creswell, associate professor of psychology at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

While counselors believe everyone has an innate ability to practice mindfulness, they say it's not easy for many people to master. People are accustomed to letting their minds wander, suppressing unwanted experiences and running on autopilot.

That's why the teens in the Sheppard Pratt program stay from six months to a year, Carpenter says. The Towson program focuses on teenagers and can accommodate up to 63 at a time.

Carpenter's team is just starting to collect data on the outcomes for those who go through the program. But anecdotally, she says, they appear to be handling the real world as well as the therapy world. They are not returning to the program, or to the social service or criminal justice systems that initially referred many of them.

Other students are referred to the program by private psychiatrists or taken there by their parents.

Kirsten, whose newly red hair seems to reflect her growing confidence, now wants to become a counselor of some kind so she can help others change their path.

"I've been labeled and called names," she says. "I want to teach others that they can have a different life."

Corey Johnson Jr., an 18-year-old from Germantown, says he no longer wants people to look at him as a "negative influence." He went to Sheppard Pratt in December after handling his diagnoses of ADHD, PTSD and a mood disorder poorly.

Staff members now consider Johnson and Kirsten "honors" students for their level of dedication to improvement. The teens practice mindfulness daily at Sheppard Pratt and develop their skills in classes or activities with fellow students and when they go home on weekend passes.

"I'm working hard not to be defined by my past," Johnson said. "I don't want to be the person who is in and out of residential treatment centers for the rest of my life and is viewed negatively. I want to be viewed positively."

Johnson, who is in 11th grade, wants to become a forensic scientist. He believes he's now better equipped to concentrate on reaching that goal.

He also believes that mindfulness has helped him better control his responses outside of class.

Instead of counting bricks, like Kristen, he often thinks of being with his older sisters.

"I always notice my heart rate goes down and I'm calmer," he says. "This helps me have a different outlook on life. I get 60 seconds to think about my choices, and of course, I act differently.

"In the past I reacted in the wrong way: impulsively."

Life & Style

Rolling Stones unleash rock and roll on massive Cuban crowd

Mick Jagger of The Rolling Stones performs in Havana, Cuba, Friday March 25, 2016.
AP

HAVANA (AP)—The Rolling Stones unleashed two hours of shrieking, thundering rock and roll on an ecstatic crowd of hundreds of thousands of Cubans and foreign visitors Friday night, capping one of the most momentous weeks in modern Cuban history with a massive celebration of music that was once forbidden here.

The week opened with the arrival of President Barack Obama in Air Force One, accompanied by more than 1,000 employees of a government that waged a cold war against Cuba for more than 50 years. This time, U.S. forces were armed with briefing books and press invitations, here to seal the president's 2014 opening to Cuba with a string of expertly crafted public events that saw Obama call for democracy live on state television, then attend a Major League Baseball exhibition game with Cuban President Raul Castro.

The week ended with Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts firing "Jumpin' Jack Flash" ''Sympathy for the Devil" and "Satisfaction" into a jubilant crowd from 3-story-tall high-definition television screens and thumping towers of speakers.

From Sunday evening to late Friday night, it felt as if the full force of the 21st century had landed with bone-rattling impact on an island that still feels mostly cut off from the modern world.

"Havana, Cuba, and the Rolling Stones!" Jagger cried. "This is amazing! It's really good to be here! It's good to see you guys!"

The Stones romped through 18 of their classics, picking up force as the crowd in the open-air Ciudad Deportiva, or Sports City, jumped and chanted "Rollings! Rollings!"

The Rolling Stones were the biggest mainstream rock act to play in Cuba since its 1959 revolution brought a communist government to power and isolated the island from the United States and its allies. At its heyday, Cuba's communist government frowned on U.S. and British bands. Fans had to hide their Beatles and Stones albums in covers borrowed from albums of appropriately revolutionary Cuban groups.

But times have changed. Former supermodel Naomi Campbell, actor Richard Gere and singer Jimmy Buffet partied in the VIP section of the concert. Castro's son Alejandro, one of the driving forces behind Cuba's declaration of detente with the United States, greeted friends and relatives after the show.

Far from the Cuban and international elites, ordinary Cubans said they felt shot through with energy, reconnected with the world.

"After today I can die," said 62-year-old night watchman Joaquin Ortiz. "This is like my last wish, seeing the Rolling Stones."

Rivers of spectators flowed north and south from the concert site after the show, watched over by hundreds, perhaps thousands, of security officials.

Few were willing to comment on the connections between the concert and Obama's visit earlier in the week, but many said the concert had implications beyond simple entertainment.

"The Rolling Stones being in Cuba at this time is like several steps up the ladder," said Jennifer Corchado, a 23-year-old biologist. "It's like three steps up the staircase toward global culture, toward the rest of the world."

Among the spectators was a large contingent of foreign tourists, for whom seeing Cuba was as novel as seeing the Rolling Stones is for Cubans.

Ken Smith, a 59-year-old retired sailor, and Paul Herold, a 65-year-old retired plumber, sailed to Havana from Key West, Florida on Herold's yacht.

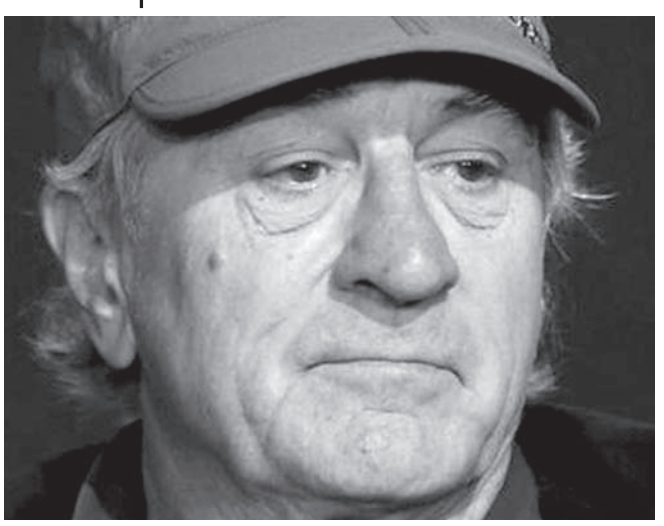
"This has been one of my life-long dreams, to come to Cuba on my sailboat," Herold said.

Some Cuban concert-goers said it made them more optimistic about the future of their country.

"This is history," said Raul Podio, a 22-year-old employee of a state security firm, who was joined by a group of young friends. "I would like to see more groups, for there to be more variety, for more artists to come, because that would mean we are less isolated."

The band's Cuba stop ended its "Ole" Latin America tour, which also included concerts in Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina and Mexico.

De Niro's Tribeca festival pulls anti-vaccination film


AP
In this Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2015 file photo, Robert De Niro attends a news conference in Macau.

NEW YORK (AP)—Robert De Niro is removing the anti-vaccination documentary "Vaxxed" from the lineup of his Tribeca Film Festival, after initially defending its inclusion.

"Vaxxed: From Cover-up to Conspiracy," was set to be part of the film festival when it opened next month. The decision to include the film by anti-vaccination activist Andrew Wakefield came under fire, particularly since Wakefield's contention that the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine have a link to autism have been discredited.

While De Niro on Friday defended the decision to include the film, he released a statement Saturday saying he had reversed his decision.

De Niro, who has a child with autism, said he had hoped to provide an opportunity for conversation around an issue "that is deeply personal to me and my family."

However, he said after he and Tribeca organizers reviewed it, "We do not believe it contributes to or furthers the discussion I had hoped for." He said members of the scientific community also had reviewed it with him.

"The festival doesn't seek to avoid or shy away from controversy. However, we have concerns with certain things in this film that we feel prevent us from presenting it in the festival program," he added.

A statement from Wakefield, the film's director, and Del Bigtree, its producer, decried De Niro's decision, saying they didn't get a chance to defend themselves against critics of the film.

"We have just witnessed yet another example of the power of corporate interests censoring free speech, art and truth," the statement read. "Tribeca's action will not succeed in denying the world access to the truth behind the film 'Vaxxed.'"

The Tribeca Film Festival runs from April 13 to April 24.

Jazz composer, professor David Baker dies at 84

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP)—David Baker, a prolific jazz composer and musician who founded the jazz studies program at Indiana University, died Saturday at age 84, the school said in a statement.

The university said Baker died at his home in Bloomington. It did not disclose a cause of death.

He wrote more than 2,000 pieces of music and was nominated for a Grammy in 1979 and a Pulitzer Prize in 1973. In 2000 he was named a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master, the country's highest jazz honor.

Baker's love of jazz was cultivated in 1940s Indianapolis, where he grew up. According to a 2008 story in the Indianapolis Star, he would sneak into clubs where he heard music that drew him to jazz. In a 2007 interview with the National Education Association posted on its website, he also credited his teachers.

"I was surrounded by music. Nobody in my family played music, but I went to an all-black high school in Indianapolis called Crispus Attucks High School," Baker said. "And all the teachers there were protective of us. They made sure that we stayed out of trouble and they exposed us to good music."

He went on to receive bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Indiana University in 1953-54.

A talented trombonist, Baker switched to the cello after injuring his jaw in a car accident. He concentrated on composition, writing works for groups ranging from small jazz ensembles to symphony orchestras. He later began playing trombone again, performing on pianist Bill Evans' 1972 album "Living Time."

He performed in the U.S., Japan, Australia, New Zealand and across Europe, including a 1960 tour with longtime friend Quincy Jones' big band. He also worked with bands led by Stan Kenton, Maynard Ferguson and George Russell.

He co-founded the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, serving as its conductor and musical director from 1990 to 2012. His body of work includes more than 65 recordings and 70 books on jazz and African-American music.

Baker taught for decades at Indiana University, serving as chair of the jazz studies program from 1968-2013.

A colleague called him an influential teacher. His students included such noted jazz musicians as trumpeters Chris Botti and Randy Brecker, and saxophonist Michael Brecker.

"His influence permeates the teaching of jazz music around the globe," said Tom Walsh, the current chair of the jazz studies program. "His humor, his care for people and his great desire to share his knowledge and experience made him a magnet."

Snoop Dogg responds to call of the wild on 'Planet Snoop'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Snoop Dogg heard the call of the wild, and he responded.

The rapper is providing commentary for nature and other videos on "Planet Snoop," a new series on his Merry Jane website.

The world learned of Snoop Dogg's skill as nature host when his parodies of the "Plant Earth" documentary series aired on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

A petition titled "Get Snoop Dogg to Narrate Whole Season of Planet Earth" drew more than 75,000 signatures, according to the website, and "Planet Snoop" was born.

One clip offers Snoop Dogg's remarks on the battle between a squirrel and a snake.

AP

In this March 20, 2015 file photo, rapper Snoop Dogg takes part in the "Keynote Conversation with Snoop Dogg" at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas.

Mariah Carey cancels Brussels concert over security concerns

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mariah Carey says she is canceling a concert in Brussels over security concerns in the wake of Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

A website selling tickets to Carey's European tour stated the Sunday show in Brussels has been canceled. A message posted to fans on Carey's Twitter account stated that the show was being canceled over security concerns.

The message said that Carey had been advised to cancel the show to protect the safety of her crew and fans.

No promise of a rescheduled show was included, but the tweets said Carey hoped to see her fans in Belgium soon.

Carey is scheduled to perform Saturday night in Luxembourg.

Cyrus, Keys to join 'The Voice' as judges

NEW YORK (AP)—Miley Cyrus and Alicia Keys will get red chairs as new judges on NBC's "The Voice" next September.

The network said it will be the first time the four-person judging panel will have two women—in previous seasons there were three male judges. Cyrus and Keys will join mainstays Blake Shelton and Adam Levine on one of television's most popular reality shows.

Both women have experience with the show. Cyrus is an adviser this season and Keys was a mentor during a previous season.

While Shelton and Levine have been regulars, NBC tends to rotate other judges dependent upon their schedules—so other judges like Christina Aguilera, Pharrell and Gwen Stefani remain in the bullpen. Stefani has been serving as a mentor this season.

"The Voice" usually runs neck-and-neck with "Dancing With the Stars" as television's most popular competition shows, but crushes the ABC show among younger viewers. "The Voice" has passed by Fox's "American Idol," which is airing its last episode next month.

AP

Miley Cyrus watches play between the New York Knicks and the Cleveland Cavaliers during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, March 26, 2016, in New York.

Adele apologizes after fan is hurt at her Glasgow show

LONDON (AP)—Adele has apologized after a fan was injured at one of her concerts in Scotland.

The incident happened Friday night at the SSE Hydro venue in Glasgow when a chain fell from production rigging and hit a woman in the audience. The fan was treated at the scene and hospitalized as a precaution.

Adele tweeted "I'm so sorry to hear that someone got hurt at my show tonight. It's being investigated to ensure it won't happen again."

Officials say the 13,000-seat venue is being checked to make sure it's safe for the British singer's Saturday show.

Adele's "25" set a first-week sales record in November, selling over 2.4 million albums and the music video for her single "Hello" took only 87 days to hit 1 billion views on YouTube.

Zayn, formerly of One Direction, is appealing on solo debut

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

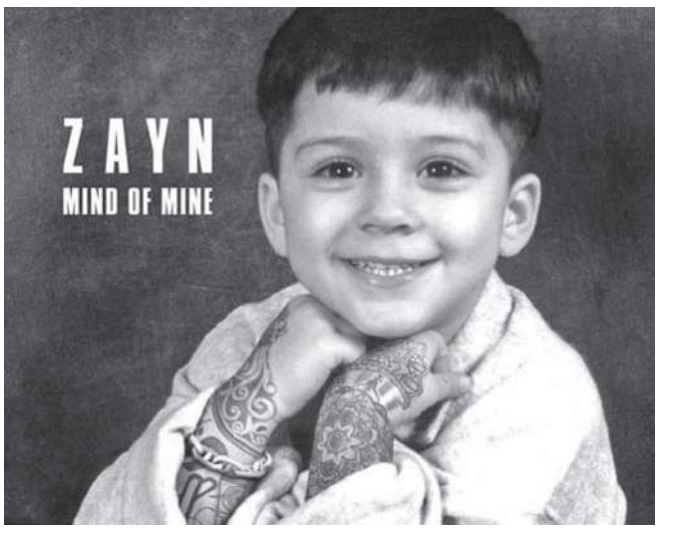
Wait, Zayn was in One Direction? You'll ask yourself that question after listening to his solo album.

"Mind of Mine"—which comes a year to the day he officially announced he was leaving 1D—is a mostly downbeat R&B-pop adventure that shows Zayn has some true star quality.

It's a departure from the pop grooves One Direction have become known for, and Zayn's new songs—in the vein of Chris Brown, Frank Ocean and recent Justin Bieber—are appealing. There isn't a bad tune in the batch of 14 tracks.

"It's You" is a pretty, falsetto-heavy slow groove; "Be-Four" is addictive and catchy; "Truth" feels like a neo-soul song of the early 2000s; and on "She" and "Fool for You," the singer reminds you why he did well on "The X Factor," where 1D formed in 2010.

Malay, the producer who worked heavily on Ocean's Grammy-winning "channel ORANGE," also works his magic on Zayn's album, as do producers Levi Lennox, xyz, Alan Sampson and MakeYouKnowLove.



AP

This CD cover image released by RCA shows, "Mind of Mine," by Zayn.

Married woman with lover is happy with things as they are

DEAR ABBY: I met a man eight years ago who has become everything to me. We see each other weekly and discuss life, work, home and more. We are both married to other people.

Our relationship is not only emotional but also physical. We are secretive about our relationship only with our children—we appear in public together, and my spouse knows about it. Many people at our regular venues comment on how much in love we seem to be. A few of my friends are privy to our relationship and wonder when we're leaving our spouses to be together.

My question is: Can't it just be OK to be happy with what we have? We enjoy the times we have traveled, talked and loved. I am virtually ignored by my spouse, as is he. The time he has been in my life is the happiest I have ever been. But I don't want more.

It's hard to explain. People think I'm in denial, but I'm not. He has issues I wouldn't want full time, as I suppose everyone does, and I wouldn't want to ruin what we have. Thoughts?

PART-TIME LOVER

DEAR PART-TIME: You and your lover have "an arrangement" that seems to work not only for you, but also for your spouses. It's unconventional, to put it mildly. Because you are so open about it, I'm surprised your children haven't caught wind of it by now. My question to you would be what you and this man plan to do when they find out, because I don't think you can keep them in the dark forever.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are friends with a couple we have known for many years. When the four of us eat together, it's obvious to me that the husband directs the conversation toward my wife. Even when the topic is general in nature, his eye contact is with her to the point where it makes me uncomfortable. On a cruise last year, when we ate together regularly, I intentionally sat across from him and, sure enough, he talked diagonally across the table to my wife.

I have always made a conscious effort in mixed company to direct the majority of my conversation toward my male counterpart and not his wife. I feel that it's more appropriate. I really don't think there is any threat from him, maybe just bad manners on his part. How should I handle this? Should I ignore it, or make him aware of it?

BOTHERED BY IT IN ALABAMA

DEAR BOTHERED: If there is a rule of etiquette covering this, I have never heard of it. You have two choices—continue to ignore it and let it bother you, or ask him why he does it. He may be doing it unconsciously because he finds your wife to be an interesting conversationalist.

DEAR ABBY: My husband has been wearing a T-shirt with a picture of a tombstone and the caption "Married and Buried" on the front. I have asked him repeatedly not to wear it because it hurts my feelings, but he only laughs and says it's just a gag. What do I do?

OFFENDED IN FLORIDA

DEAR OFFENDED: Because your husband persists in doing something he knows hurts your feelings, I can't blame you for feeling offended. While I'm tempted to advise you to have a T-shirt made that reads "Married to an Insensitive Clod" and wear it when he puts his on, I think you'd be better off simply ignoring him when he does it. Eventually he'll quit wearing it when the novelty wears off.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbookle

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I TOLD YOU I'M NOT SICK! WHAT'S THAT? WILL IT HURT?
IT'S A TONGUE DEPRESSOR. IT WON'T HURT AT ALL.
WHAT'S THAT? WILL IT HURT?
IT'S A STETHOSCOPE. IT WON'T HURT AT ALL.
WHAT'S THAT? WILL IT HURT?
IT'S A CATTLE PROD. IT HURTS A LITTLE LESS THAN A BRANDING IRON.
LITTLE KIDS HAVE NO SENSE OF HUMOR.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

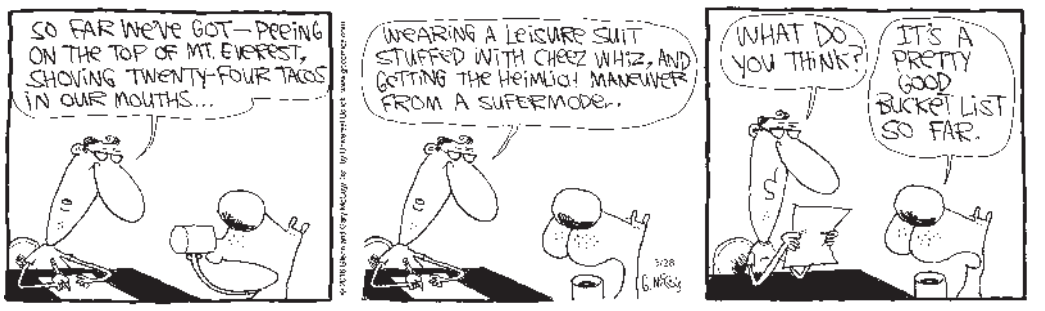
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

UGH. NO MORE JELLYBEANS. EVER.
OVERDID IT, HUH?
YEAH. AND I THINK I ATE MY WEIGHT IN PEEPS.
WHOA. THAT'S NOT EASY. PEEPS ARE ONE OF THE LIGHTER CONFECTIONS.
WHERE WERE YOU?? I RELY ON YOU TO MONITOR MY INTAKE!
SORRY. I WAS IN A REESE'S PEANUT BUTTER EGG SPIRAL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


SO FAR WE'VE GOT—PEEING ON THE TOP OF MT. EVEREST, SHOWING TWENTY-FOUR TACOS IN OUR MOUTHS...
WEARING A LEISURE SUIT STUFFED WITH CHEEZ WHIZ, AND GETTING THE HEIMLICH MANEUVER FROM A SUPERMODEL.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT'S A PRETTY GOOD BUCKET LIST SO FAR.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Thailand, once
5 Priestly garment
8 Sapporo sashes
12 Pinnacle
13 Brink
14 Shoppe descrip-tion
15 Incursion
16 Whale's breather
18 Deep blue
20 Made up, as a word
21 Kvetch
23 Finale
24 Big cel-ebrations
28 Coated with gold
31 Immi-grant's subj.
32 Annual visitor
34 Corn serving
35 Animated Betty
37 Generos-ity
39 Potential syrup
41 Lusty look
42 Down Under native
45 Bagel choice
49 Police record books
51 "Sad to say ..."
52 "By the power vested — ..."
53 Fib
54 AAA jobs
55 Russian news agency
56 "Mayday!"
57 Nada

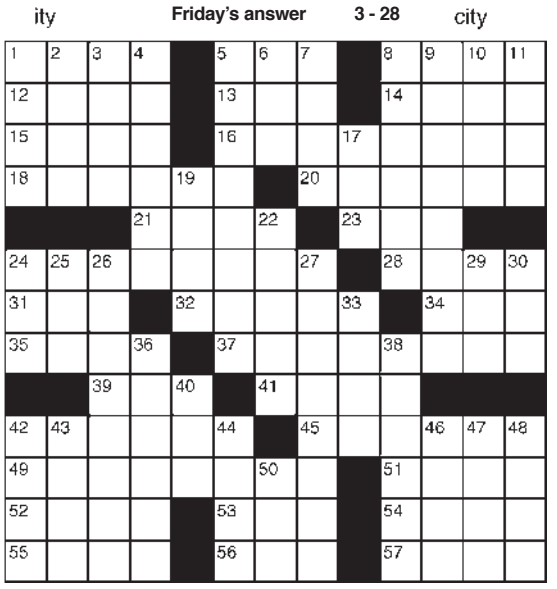
DOWN

1 Rani's wrap
2 Optimist's credo
3 During
4 Noble Florentine name
5 Tree-dwelling
6 Like Abner
7 College VIP
8 Reacting to pyro-technics
9 Brown-ies' kin
10 Not busy
11 Burpee buy
17 Misery
19 Guys' dates
22 Jail-related
24 Dubya's brother
25 GIs' enter-tainers
26 Flowers
27 Accents
29 Vegas opener
30 Three, in Rome
33 Writer James
36 Glues
38 Artificial
40 Trench
42 Slightly
43 Arm bone
44 Morays
46 Medicinal plant
47 Bryn —
48 Old U.S. gas brand
50 Carnival city

Solution time: 26 mins.

R	O	B		S	W	A	P		M	U	S	T
A	B	E		H	I	Y	A		U	R	S	A
P	I	A	N	O	L	E	G		F	L	E	X
T	E	D	I	U	M		O	F	F			
			P	T	A		D	I	S	A	R	M
W	A	S	P	S		P	A	X		B	E	E
A	L	L	Y		G	A	S		P	E	A	S
F	A	A		W	R	Y		V	I	L	I	A
T	I	P	T	O	E		S	O	L			
			H	E	M		C	O	A	R	S	E
J	U	N	O		L	E	A	D	F	O	O	T
A	F	A	R		I	N	N	O		T	A	N
B	O	N	N		N	A	T	O		S	K	A

Friday's answer 3 - 28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lady Gaga, 30; Julia Stiles, 35; Vince Vaughn, 46; Reba McEntire, 61.

Happy Birthday: You have drive, insight and the ability to make things happen. Change is heading your way and will bring with it experience, excitement and a chance to maneuver into a position you've been longing for. Don't be afraid to showcase what you have to offer. Stay true to your heart and you will achieve your goals. Your numbers are 2, 8, 19, 24, 35, 41, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't leave anything to chance. Get your personal documentary in order, update your resume and be prepared for change. Take initiative and make things happen. Keep your communication to others simple and effective. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Remember past challenges and you won't make the same mistakes twice. Engage in activities that will broaden your outlook regarding cultural differences. Look out for greater opportunities. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Look at the pros and cons of any situation you face before making a decision. Your ability may be questioned if you are impulsive. Don't be fooled by someone who paints a pretty but unrealistic picture. Protect your reputation and your physical well-being. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Use your creative ideas to find a solution, and implement your plan quickly before someone can derail it. A change at home will affect your status or way of life. Nurture an important relationship. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take control and put your plans into motion. Expand your interests by participating in activities that will educate and encourage you. Discipline and determination will help you win a position of importance. Personal improvement is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Focus on domestic and personal investments. Don't be daunted by interference. Listen to what others propose and make a well-thought-out decision. A change at home will bring challenges, but in the end, it will be worth the trouble. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Plan a vacation or an expenditure that will brighten your day. Remember what your budget is before you commit to something you may have trouble following through on. Rely on a trusted partner to keep you on track. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Money or gifts will come your way. Don't be too quick to take something from someone unless you know what's expected in return. You can come out on top as long as you don't leave any room for surprises. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): It will be necessary to be precise and stick to the facts if you want to avoid trouble. You can make positive alterations at home that will add to your comfort and popularity. Don't share personal secrets or get involved in gossip. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Be concerned with your actions, not what others do. Avoid being thrown off track by someone who is making last-minute changes to your plans. Protect your money, assets and possessions from someone who is using emotional manipulation to get something from you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): The suggestions you make will lead to popularity. Planning something special for someone you love should include people you haven't seen for a long time. A personal change will give you the boost you need. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Learn through observation and you will avoid criticism. Conversations will be misleading due to jealousy. A proposal will not be as it appears. Get what you want in writing or take a pass. Don't be afraid to do your own thing. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are kind, generous and energetic. You are secretive and passionate.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			2	4		5		
		2		1	5			
	7					4		1
7				2	4		5	
3	9		1	5	7		6	2
	1		8	9				7
6		9					1	
			4	3		9		
		8		6	1			

Difficulty Level ★ 3/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	7	1	2	6	3	8	4	5
2	3	8	1	5	4	9	6	7
4	6	5	9	7	8	3	1	2
6	4	2	5	3	9	7	8	1
8	1	3	7	4	2	6	5	9
7	5	9	6	8	1	4	2	3
3	9	6	4	2	5	1	7	8
5	8	7	3	1	6	2	9	4
1	2	4	8	9	7	5	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HOW TO MAKE GOAT CHEESE Solution: 6 letters

B	P	L	D	A	I	R	Y	C	S	P	O	O	N	E
C	R	L	C	H	I	V	E	S	A	C	I	D	I	C
O	A	I	C	P	C	R	O	S	E	M	A	R	Y	I
L	H	D	E	U	S	S	T	C	U	D	O	R	P	U
A	S	N	R	I	L	E	R	U	C	H	C	E	A	J
N	E	D	M	A	U	T	T	E	T	Ⓚ	R	F	R	L
D	L	M	M	R	A	D	U	O	G	Ⓛ	A	R	S	E
E	E	I	I	G	R	L	L	R	M	Ⓘ	C	I	L	M
R	N	Z	I	I	B	C	E	E	E	Ⓜ	K	G	E	O
A	E	N	E	A	E	U	H	N	T	D	E	E	Y	N
D	G	D	L	S	S	E	O	N	F	R	D	R	I	I
L	H	L	E	A	A	N	N	E	O	A	A	A	T	L
O	S	E	B	T	E	I	E	T	S	H	R	T	L	S
M	H	L	E	E	H	W	Y	V	R	D	E	E	A	U
C	E	G	N	I	P	M	U	L	C	U	R	D	S	M

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Villanova upsets top-seeded Kansas to make Final Four

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Villanova players danced and celebrated after pulling off what many thought would be the NCAA Tournament's most difficult task.

Beating Kansas, the No. 1 overall seed, required taking the Jayhawks out of their comfort zone while seizing the opportunities that resulted. The Wildcats did both effectively even though it wasn't always pretty, and their reward is a berth in the Final Four.

Kris Jenkins made two free throws with 13.3 seconds remaining, Jalen Brunson added two more with 3.5 seconds left and second-seeded Villanova upset the top-seeded Jayhawks 64-59 on Saturday night in the South Region final. The Wildcats will play Oklahoma next weekend in Houston.

Mikal Bridges and Josh Hart each made big steals in the final minute to help the Wildcats (33-5) pull off the upset and end the Jayhawks' 17-game winning streak. The Wildcats are back in the Final Four for the first time since 2009, and they can credit balanced scoring and ferocious defense.

Jenkins, Hart and Ryan Arcidiacono each scored 13 points for the Wildcats. They used a 10-0 run to take a 50-45 lead and get key baskets and plays down the stretch in beating the Jayhawks (33-5).

"Every guy on this team is willing to do whatever it takes to win, man," said Jenkins, who made all six free throws to offset 3-for-10 shooting. "Everybody on this team sacrifices. But we're not satisfied. We're looking forward to our next game in Houston. This definitely is a special feeling, but like I said before, we're not satisfied."

Devonte' Graham had 17 points, and Frank Mason III and Wayne Selden Jr. added 16 each for Kansas, which got just four points from leading scorer Perry Ellis. The Jayhawks shot 46 percent from the field and even won the rebounding battle 32-28, but played from behind most of the night.

Even when it was ahead, Kansas never seemed in control and ended up making desperation plays that didn't work.

Graham shot 5 of 9 from long range, but fouled out late, and everyone else was a combined 1 for 13 from behind the arc. Kansas also committed 16 turnovers, including several in the final minutes when it was within a possession of tying or leading.

"I think the basket shrunk a little bit for us, and certainly, they probably got some confidence the way they were defending us," Kansas coach Bill Self said about Villanova. "But it came down them making free throws and it came down to a couple of loose balls, and that was the difference in the outcome."

Villanova got 10 points from Daniel Ochefu, including a big jumper with 6:14 left, just one of many big plays the Wildcats made to preserve the lead after finally wresting it from Kansas.

It wasn't easy. Mason scored five points and the Jayhawks cut it to 60-59 with 15 seconds left. But Arcidiacono, who turned 22, preceded that with four free throws before Jenkins and Brunson followed with two more. The Wildcats made 18 of 19 at the line and all eight in the final 33 seconds.

The Wildcats were also given the ball with 34 seconds left when officials determined that Graham undercut Hart on a scramble after Graham's turnover. Graham fouled out at that point, and Mason's foul led to the first of Arcidiacono's foul shots.

Darryl Reynolds had two free throws and Bridges had a key tip-in for the Wildcats as well in a game in which they shot 40 percent from the field.

Villanova gets to pursue its second national title in its fifth Final Four berth, though the NCAA vacated its 1971 appearance because star Howard Porter had signed a pro contract while still in college. The Wildcats will face Oklahoma next Saturday in Houston.

AP

Villanova forward Kris Jenkins, left, celebrates with teammate Josh Hart after a regional final men's college basketball game in the NCAA Tournament against Kansas, Saturday, March 26, 2016, in Louisville, Ky. Villanova won, 64-59.

Oklahoma 80, Oregon 68

In Anaheim, Buddy Hield was brilliant from start to finish for Oklahoma, scoring 37 points with a fluid jumper and an answer for everything Oregon tried against him defensively.

In fact, there was only one remaining question after Hield climbed a stepladder to cut down the net that he had just set on fire in the West Region final of the NCAA Tournament.

Can Buddyball take the Sooners all the way to their first national title?

Hield hit eight 3-pointers in another utterly dominant performance, and Oklahoma advanced to its first Final Four since 2002 with an 80-68 victory over Oregon on Saturday.

"It's special," Hield said afterward, a piece of the net tied to his Final Four hat. "As a kid, you dream of having games like this. ... I'm just happy that we all made it, and we've just got to finish it out."

Jordan Woodard added 13 points for the Sooners (29-7), who streaked to an 18-point lead in the first half and never let the Ducks back in it. Oklahoma is in the Final Four for the fifth time in school history, and coach Lon Kruger is back in college basketball's biggest showcase for the second time after a 22-year absence.

"It's about seeing the feelings of satisfaction on the players' faces," Kruger said. "They feel good about this right now, but they'll feel even better about it years from now. They've got a special, special spot."

The regional final was a monument to the formidable talent of Hield, the Sooners' senior star who passed on NBA riches for another chance to reach the Final Four.

He carved up the Ducks' defense from all distances with his smooth outside shot and a knack for momentum-swinging buckets.

Even Orange County resident Kobe Bryant watched admiringly from the stands, prompting some Oregon players to compare Hield to the Lakers' retiring superstar.

"I'm not Kobe Bryant," Hield said with an embarrassed grin. "They should not compare me. I just make shots. Me and Kobe (are) in two different classes."

The Sooners have never won a title, but Hield's talent suggests history could be made in Houston. Their traveling fans serenaded him with chants of "Buddy! Buddy!" after the final whistle.

Sure, he didn't have an assist in 39 minutes. Hield didn't need the help.

"Buddy just makes shots," Kruger said. "He's just unbelievable. He shoots with great confidence and doesn't force many. He got it going early, and he made some big shots there in the second half to keep them from cutting into the lead, too."

Elgin Cook scored 24 points for the Ducks (31-7), whose 11-game winning streak ended one game shy of the second Final Four in school history.

Nadal retires in 3rd set at Miami Open against Dzumhur

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (AP)—Rafael Nadal slumped in a changeover chair, the blood pressure gauge strapped to his mighty left arm serving as a scoreboard.

He was on the verge of defeat, and a few points later he retired from a match for the first time in six years.

Nadal faded in the subtropical heat and conceded after falling behind in the third set of his opening match Saturday at the Miami Open against Damir Dzumhur.

The No. 5-seeded Nadal trailed 2-6, 6-4, 3-0 when he called it quits after losing a point to fall behind 30-15. He had earlier consulted with a trainer between games three times, and had his blood pressure checked.

Nadal said he started feeling badly at the end of the first set.

"It was getting worse and worse and worse," the Spaniard said. "I get a little bit scared—oo dizzy. I felt I was not safe, so I decided to go. I wanted to finish the match, but I seriously couldn't."

His departure left the draw without three of the five highest-seeded men. No. 4 Stan Wawrinka lost to Andrey Kuznetsov 6-4, 6-3, and No. 3 Roger Federer withdrew Friday because of a stomach virus.

In the night session, No. 2 Andy Murray won his opening match against Denis Istomin, 6-3, 7-5.

Eight-time champion Serena Williams avoided the upset bug and seemed unfazed by the weather. The South Floridian earned her 20th consecutive victory at Key Biscayne and reached the fourth round by beating Zarina Diyas 7-5, 6-3.

"I live down the street, and I'm used to these conditions," she said. "Even though it was a little humid, I'm used to it and I love this weather."

Nadal's match lasted less than two hours, but the temperature approached 90 degrees and was even higher on the sunbaked stadium hardcourt.

Nadal said he felt fine before the match and wasn't sure whether he was contracting an illness.

"Hopefully it's just the extreme conditions," he said. "It's tough for me, because I felt I was playing well. It's a hard accident. That's life."

Nadal later pulled out of doubles.

The 14-time Grand Slam champion hasn't won a tournament since August. But it had been 443 matches since he retired—in the 2010 Australian Open quarterfinals against Andy Murray.

Key Biscayne remains one of the biggest tournaments Nadal has never won. He's 0-4 in finals.

In other men's play, No. 13 John Isner double-faulted on his final two service points and lost to qualifier Tim Smyczek 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (5).

On the women's side, No. 8 Petra Kvitova lost to No. 30 Ekaterina Makarova 6-4, 6-4. No. 3 Agnieszka Radwanska, the 2012 champion, eliminated Madison Brengle 6-3, 6-2.

Day sets showdown vs McIlroy; Spieth loses No.1 ranking

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—The Dell Match Play has produced a semifinal that is almost bigger than Texas.

Even without Jordan Spieth.

Jason Day powered his way to two victories Saturday to assure that he will return to No. 1 in the world.

But this is no time to celebrate. His reward is a semifinal showdown against defending champion Rory McIlroy, who ran his unbeaten streak to 12 matches and needs two more to join Tiger Woods as the only back-to-back winners. This is only the second time the No. 2 and No. 3 seeds have met in the semifinals since the Match Play began in 1999. They are the last two winners of this event.

Play away, please.

"I expect it to be very, very tough and very stressful out there," Day said. "And that's the stuff I enjoy."

Day and McIlroy have never met in match play.

"I've love to play Jason," McIlroy said. "I'd really relish it. He's playing really well at the minute, coming off a win last week. I'd be really up for it. It's a big match."

Spieth, who led the Texas Longhorns to an NCAA title in 2012 and had the gallery on his side all week, won't be around for all the excitement.

He lost his fourth-round match to Louis Oosthuizen, and then he lost the No. 1 ranking when Day advanced to the semifinal. Spieth was more concerned about how his swing got out of sorts than losing the No. 1 ranking.

"To be honest, it could be a good thing for me going into the Masters," he said.

Day and McIlroy were all square going to the back in their matches. Day won two of the first three holes to pull away from Brooks Koepka, closing him out on the 16th hole. McIlroy ran off four birdies in six holes for a 4-and-3 victory over Chris Kirk.

"It's been a bit of an up and down week, especially emotionally," said Day, who considered withdrawing when his back seized up on him after his first match of the week. "It's been quite amazing to be able to start the week, not really thinking I'm going to be able to play with what happened Wednesday, and then turn around and I'm No. 1 in the world. It's a strange feeling. I'm glad I stuck it out."

Oosthuizen, who eliminated Spieth with a 4-and-2 victory in the morning, took advantage of Dustin Johnson's blunders in the quarterfinals to win, 2 and 1. Rafa Cabrera Bello of Spain also advanced to the semifinals by beating Ryan Moore, 2 and 1.

AP

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland watches his shot on the second hole during a round-robin play against Kevin Na at the Dell Match Play Championship golf tournament at Austin County Club, Friday, March 25, 2016, in Austin, Texas.

Oosthuizen and Day are the only semifinalists who have yet to play the 18th hole in competition at Austin Country Club.

"I didn't make it very hard on Louis today, which is unfortunate," said Spieth, who lost holes with three bogeys and a double bogey. "I was off from when I hit my first 10 shots on the range. I've had incredible control of the ball this week and of my wedges. I'm not exactly sure what happened."

Spieth led a trail of Americans to the airport. There were 11 Americans in the round of 16 at the start of the day, none at the end of it. This is the first time since 2010 that no Americans advanced to the semifinals.

Day has played the fewest holes this week - 69 holes over five rounds—helped by an ill Paul Casey pulling out after six holes on Thursday.

Day squared the match against Koepka on the eighth hole, pulled ahead with a birdie on No. 10 and then hit out of the bunker to about 20 feet for an eagle that was conceded to go 2 up. Koepka never won another hole.

McIlroy's toughest work came in the morning against Zach Johnson, who battled McIlroy to the very end. McIlroy was leading 1 up when he hit wedge to 3 feet on the 18th that seemingly wrapped up the match, except that Johnson made a 20-foot birdie putt and McIlroy had to roll in his birdie to win.

Oosthuizen reached the semifinals for the first time, and Johnson helped him get there.

Johnson three-putted for bogey on No. 11 to fall behind for the first time in the match. Oosthuizen went into the water on the par-5 12th, only for Johnson to follow with a shot into the water. Oosthuizen was 1 up playing the par-3 17th when he made a 20-foot birdie putt, and Johnson missed his birdie from 6 feet that would have extended the match.

"I just wanted to go through to tomorrow and see if I can get into this final," Oosthuizen said.

That might be what it takes for anyone to pay attention to him or Cabrera Bello, who picked up one important victory this week. His victory Saturday morning assured him of moving into the top 50 at the end of the week and getting into the Masters for the first time.

Westbrook, Durant lead Thunder past short-handed Spurs

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The Thunder didn't face the San Antonio Spurs' biggest stars, but they'll take the win.

Kevin Durant scored 31 points and Russell Westbrook added 29 to help the Thunder defeat the short-handed Spurs 111-92 on Saturday night.

It wasn't the late-season showdown that was anticipated when the schedule first came out—the Spurs rested Kawhi Leonard, LaMarcus Aldridge, Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker.

The game also had little effect on the standings. San Antonio is likely to finish second in the Western Conference and the Thunder are virtually locked into third. But the Thunder, who won their seventh straight, said it was important to maintain momentum.

"Another opportunity for us to keep growing and building our habits," Durant said. "It wasn't on us that they didn't play their starters. We just had to continue to play our game and do what we do."

Enes Kanter had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Serge Ibaka added 15 points and eight rebounds for Oklahoma City.

David West and Jonathon Simmons each scored 17 points for the Spurs, who had won eight of nine. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said he thought his team played hard, but didn't have the talent available to keep up.

Raptors 115, Pelicans 91

In New Orleans, DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points, Patrick Patterson had 16 and the Toronto Raptors snapped a two-game losing streak, beating the New Orleans on Saturday night to tie a franchise record with their 49th victory of the season.

Toronto was never pushed by the Pelicans, who were down to just nine players on the active roster because of injuries. The Raptors shot 53 percent from the floor and the defense was nearly as good, holding New Orleans to just 43 percent shooting.

Cavaliers 107, Knicks 93

In New York, LeBron James had 27 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his third triple-double of the season, Kevin Love added 28 points and 12 rebounds, and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the New York Knicks.

James recorded his 42nd career triple-double and moved within three points of Dominique Wilkins for 12th place on the NBA's scoring list.

Even with Kyrie Irving resting, the Cavaliers easily bounced back from a loss in Brooklyn on Thursday.

Hawks 112, Pistons 95

In Auburn Hills, Paul Millsap had 23 points and nine rebounds, and the Atlanta Hawks snapped the Detroit Pistons' five-game winning streak.

The Hawks have won 13 of their last 16 and moved a game ahead of Miami atop the Southeast Division.

Nets 120, Pacers 110

In New York, Brook Lopez scored 23 points, Bojan Bogdanovic added 18, and the Brooklyn Nets beat the Indiana Pacers.

Sergey Karasev added a career-high 17 points for the Nets, who took a 104-102 lead on Bogdanovic's 3-pointer with 5:41 remaining in the game. Lopez then scored nine consecutive points for Brooklyn before Bogdanovic nailed a contested 3-pointer to put Brooklyn ahead 116-110 with 39 seconds remaining.

Magic 111, Bulls 89

In Orlando, Magic journeyman center Dewayne Dedmon scored a career-high 18 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, Jason Smith added 14 off the bench and the Magic dealt the Chicago Bulls a blow to their fading playoff hopes.

Elfrid Payton scored 15 points and had 10 assists and Evan Fournier added 12 points for the Magic, who snapped a six-game skid.

The Bulls (36-36), fighting to climb back into the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, dropped their third straight game.

Jazz 93, Timberwolves 84

In Minneapolis, Gordon Hayward scored 16 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter and the road-weary Utah Jazz finished a five-game road trip with a victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Hayward had just two points on 1-of-6 shooting in the first three quarters. But he shot 6 of 9 in the fourth and Derrick Favors chipped in 19 points and five rebounds to get the Jazz a much-needed victory as they make a push for the playoffs.

Hornets 115, Bucks 91

In Milwaukee, Nicolas Batum scored 23 of his 25 points in the first half and the Charlotte Hornets used a 3-point barrage to rout the Milwaukee Bucks 115-91.

Marvin Williams added 21 points and Kemba Walker had 18 for the Hornets, who won three of four games in the season series. Charlotte connected on 16 of 29 3-pointers against Milwaukee in this one, a 55 percent clip.

Celtics 102, Suns 99

In Phoenix, Isaiah Thomas scored 28 points against his former team, and the Boston Celtics held off the Phoenix Suns despite almost blowing a 21-point lead.

Evan Turner added 17 points, 15 of those in the first half, to go with 11 rebounds for Boston, which won its fourth straight. He also blocked the potential tying shot with 3.9 seconds left.

Trail Blazers 108, Sixers 105

In Portland, C.J. McCollum converted a three-point play with 7.6 seconds left to break a tie and lift the Portland Trail Blazers past the Philadelphia 76ers.

Trapped in the corner near the sideline and the midcourt line, McCollum split two defenders, drove through the lane and hit a layup as he was fouled and stumbled to the floor, helping the Blazers avoid another embarrassing loss to the NBA's worst team.

Guatemala beats US in qualifier, pressuring Klinsmann

AP

Guatemala's Rafael Morales, right, clears the ball against United States' DeAndre Yedlin during a 2018 Russia World Cup qualifying soccer match at Mateo Flores Stadium in Guatemala City, Friday, March 25, 2016.

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—With a 2-0 loss at Guatemala, the United States forced itself into a pretty much must-win situation when the teams meet again Tuesday night in Columbus, Ohio.

American coach Jurgen Klinsmann made some puzzling lineup choices and the American defense self-destructed Friday night in Guatemala City.

"I think it was a lack of focus, concentration, and wrong decisions," Klinsmann said. "We have to take responsibility for it, every one of us, coaches, players, and move on and get it done on Tuesday."

Edgar Castillo's poor backpass set up corner kicks that led to Rafael Morales' goal in the seventh minute. A goal kick by Paulo Motta went most of the length of the field in the 15th and Carlos Ruiz ran onto the ball, came in alone on goalkeeper Tim Howard and doubled the lead.

Seeking their eighth straight World Cup berth, the Americans had been unbeaten in 21 games against Guatemala since January 1988 and had never lost to Los Chapines in World Cup qualifying.

Trinidad and Tobago (2-1) leads Group C with seven points after rallying for a 3-2 win at St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Guatemala (2-0-1) is one point back. The U.S. (1-1-1) has four points and St. Vincent (0-3) is last.

In September, the Americans play at St. Vincent and host Trinidad to complete the regional semifinals. The top two teams advance to the six-nation regional finals.

"We always said that World Cup qualifying is a long road, a tricky road, a difficult road," Klinsmann said.

Klinsmann already was criticized following his team's semifinal elimination in last year's CONCACAF Gold Cup and a loss to Mexico in the Confederations Cup playoff.

He started Omar Gonzalez and Michael Orozco in central defense after John Brooks returned to Germany on Friday because of a bruised left knee and defender Matt Besler sustained a concussion in training Thursday. Fabian Johnson, a midfielder and defender who has a groin injury, didn't dress; midfielder Jermaine Jones is suspended; and Jozy Altidore, the top American forward, was limited to entering in the 66th minute as he recovers from yet another hamstring injury.

Howard started for the U.S. at the last two World Cups but has lost his starting job at Everton and was appearing in his first match since Jan. 24.

Geoff Cameron started at right back rather in the more central role he usually plays for Stoke; DeAndre Yedlin started in midfield rather than right back, his position with Sunderland; and Mix Diskerud was in a defensive midfield role, which he doesn't play for New York City.

Cameron switched to the center and Yedlin moved to right back when Gyasi Zardes entered in the 59th.

Castillo, the American left back, made a wide backpass that Howard couldn't get to and rolled over the end line, leading to the first goal. Guatemala's first corner kick was chested over the line by Orozco, leading to a second. Morales jumped over Mix Diskerud, who appeared to slip, to meet Jean Marquez's corner and Morales nodded the ball off Diskerud and to the left of a diving Howard, just inside the post.

Klinsmann said a defender was supposed to be on the line.

"We write everything on the white board. It's in the locker room," Klinsmann said. "It shouldn't happen."

Ruiz then scored his 60th international goal when Motta's goal kick went the length of the field, just past Michael Bradley's head. Ruiz burst past three Americans, ran onto the ball and slotted it under Howard from just inside the penalty area.

"A sequence of mistakes," Klinsmann said, "from Michael not heading the ball to the center backs thinking that Michael has it. One was thinking the other has it."

Alejandro Bedoya had the best U.S. scoring chance in the first half when he was played through by Clint Dempsey at around the 23rd minute, but Motta blocked his shot.

Motta used his right leg to stop Dempsey's 8-yard shot following a pass from Yedlin in the 52nd minute, then slid to stop Bedoya's effort with his chest and had a kick save on Altidore in the 82nd, who was sent in alone by Dempsey. Guatemala hit the crossbar in the 70th.

Voyagers, Hustlers clash for Tuesday billiards crown

Sister teams Jokers Voyagers and Docomo Hustlers dispatch their respective foes to arrange a title showdown for the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Tuesday League title.

The finals and the battle for third between the losing semi-finalists are set for tomorrow.

The Voyagers foiled Jonny's Titans' upset bid, 9-5, while the Hustlers edged fellow Jokers Bar & Grill-sponsored squad Destroyers, 9-7, to march into the finals. The Destroyers and Titans battle for third place honors.

The trio of Mark Butac, Brian Nelvis, and Rolly Villanueva did not give the quartet of Patrick Cepeda, Ray Matsunaga, John Reyes, and Randy Sablan any room to operate and quickly got their opponents out of their rhythm. Villanueva sealed the Voyagers' win, their ninth in the race-to-nine contest, with a victory over Cepeda in the Partners 8-Ball.

It was a different story in the Hustlers-Destroyers match with Rowel Mariano and Albert Pangilinan needing victories each against Jeff Garcia and Rico Montano to keep the former's title hopes alive.

Games in the Thursday league were cancelled in observance of Maundy Thursday. Matches are rescheduled tonight, March 28. The Jokers Homeboyz will take on the Wild Bill's Rack 'N' Roll, the Jokers WildBoyz will collide with the Wild Bills Wild Wild West, and the Jonny's Team SCS will host the National Alamo Car Rental. ***(Jon Perez)***

SETTSU

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Okumori, as Settsu established a 26-6 lead before a short jumper from Diana Pablo at the 2:07 mark of that period ended MHS' long silence. The Lady Dolphins went on to score only one more basket after Pablo's shot with Kyla Ito knocking in a rare 3-pointer, but Settsu remained in full control when the first half wrapped up, 27-11.

The Lady Dolphins never made headway in the second half to cut the deficit to a decent number, as Settsu still played methodical basketball to secure the convincing title twin.

"Our players played very well in this tournament and that's because they've been together for a while—nearly two years. They executed our plays and showed great defense," Sakaguchi said.

Vijie top-scored for Settsu with her 21 points. Joining her and Okumori on the team were Miku Asai, Tsuzumi Nakaoka, Nanami Hashimoto, Risa Hirayama, Kimi Oida, Jaria Iwamoto, and Mizuki Iwasaki.

Settsu advanced to the finals after whipping Saipan Southern High School in the semis, 45-21, while MHS edged Mt. Carmel School in the other Final Four pairing, 32-26. Settsu was unbeaten in the division, which also featured a team from Tinian Junior High School.

Meanwhile, Kagman and Tinian High School played in the boys finals last Saturday and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.

Settsu 56—Vijie 21, Okumori 12, Asai 8, Nakaoka 6, Hashimoto 5.

MHS 21—Ito 9, Lopez 8, Pablo 2, Vergara 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-6, 27-11, 41-15, 56-21.

BLOWOUT

From Page 28

Falcons' strong finish to coast to victory against the Pirates.

The Twins bagged nine runs at the top of the fifth—their most in an inning—to end the game one inning earlier. The winning squad capitalized on the Pirates' defensive lapses to gain 7 unearned runs in the fifth inning and set up the easy win via 10-run mercy rule.

The Pirates failed to extend the match as they left a runner stranded at third after Ethan Taisacan got three straight strikeouts at the bottom of the fifth. The Pirates were also shutdown in the fourth as they had a 1-2-3 inning with Twins starting pitcher Kody Foreman posting two strikeouts and centerfielder Ethan Yumul catching a fly ball.

The Twins, on the other hand, scored in each of the first four innings, drilling three apiece in the first and third and two each in the second and fourth. The Pirates had one each in the first and third inning and made their best showing offensively in the second off Kazu Dela Cruz and Josh Atalig's RBI singles.

BABAUTA

From Page 28

Anson are ranked third and fourth with their .400 (4-for-10) and .364 (4-for-11), while the Falcons' Jun Atalig rounded out the Top 5 after going 5-for-14 and registering a batting average of .357.

The Falcons' Ace Evangelista and the Red Sox's Tindin Leon Guerrero are tied for sixth place (.333/4-for-12) and were followed by the Red Sox's Delin Reusora (.273/3-for-11), and the Enforcers' Nate Nogis (.267/40for-15) and Virgil Secharmidal (.231/3-for-13). The batting leaders are based on 10 or more at bats.

In the pitching race, Babauta pitched 13 innings and gave up no unearned runs for a perfect 0.00 ERA. He shares the top spot with Brandon Pua, Leon Guerrero, and Rangamar. Pua did not allow any run in eight innings pitch, while Rangamar and Leon Guerrero did the same in seven innings pitch. Kakuni Kainoa completes the field with his 0.58 ERA after giving up one run in 12 innings.

In the other categories, Atalig leads in strikeouts with 19, while Babauta and Reusora have 12 apiece. Secharmidal is on top of the runs chart with nine, followed by Rangamar and Anson, who have earned five and four so far, respectively. Anson, Rangamar, and Babauta are in a deadlock for most RBIs with five apiece, while the former and Atalig are the only two players to knock in a homer early in the season.

2016 SSC International Invitational Meet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Swimmers get ready for the 100m backstroke race in the 2016 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet held last March 19 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Tsunami Saipan's Angel De Jesus competes in the 100m backstroke event.

A swimmer does the first lap of the 100m backstroke race.

Matthew Zedde warms up for the 200m freestyle relay.

Dominic Zedde joins the 50m freestyle race.

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation's Carol Pierce, right, talks to Tsunami Saipan's Ashley Dangol while waiting for the 50m freestyle race to start.

Swimmers take their positions at the starting block for the 50m freestyle race.

A Saipan Swim Club member chills out while waiting for his race.

Villanova upsets top-seeded Kansas to make Final Four

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Sports

Day sets showdown vs McIlroy; Spieth loses No.1 ranking

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Settsu tops MHS in finals rematch

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Settsu Red Impulse had a successful title defense bid in the girls division of the 2016 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament following a methodical 56-21 finals win against Marianas High School last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The visiting squad used its strong fundamentals to prevail in the finals rematch and earn its third straight victory against the Lady Dolphins. Settsu won last year's finale, 44-27, and defeated the MHS in the battle for third place, 77-43, in the 2014 edition of the competition.

"Settsu's female players are fundamental sound. They killed us both on offense and defense. Hats off to them," MHS coach Preston Basa said.

The Susumu Sakaguchi-coach team displayed basic basketball, moving the ball well around the perimeter and dribbling only ones or twice before looking for open shooters and cutters. Settsu players knew exactly where their teammates were that one extra pass usually resulted into an easy basket. On defense, they played man-to-man to shut down the hapless Lady Dolphins.

"Our girls are used to zone so when Settsu played man-to-man, they were lost. They told me it was hard to get open for a shot, so I instructed them to keep moving the ball around and have patience, but still Settsu's defense was simply great," Basa said.

Settsu's defense was so unforgiving that the Lady Dolphins were often left with a second or two to pull up for a shot and when they did, they mostly missed, as they were not squared off for the attempt. The visiting squad's defense also held MHS scoreless for nearly 11 minutes, bridging the first and second quarter.

The Lady Dolphins were stuck to 6 points, while Settsu turned a shaky 7-6 advantage to a 15-6 cushion after 10 minutes of play. Seina Vijie led Settsu in the first quarter with her 7 points, as she loitered in the wings, waiting for entry passes and also unloaded a couple of long jumpers.

Vijie continued to find her target in the second quarter and found an ally in Chihiro

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Settsu Red Impulse's Seina Vijie pulls up for a shot against Marianas High School's Diane Pablo, right, while Gabrielle Race, left, tries to catch up on defense during the first half of their title game in the Settsu-Saipan caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Blowout wins for Twins, Falcons

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Twins and Talaabwogh demolished their respective opponents in the Majors division of the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield..

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Twins runner tries to beat the Pirates' pitcher at home plate during the top of the fourth inning of their game in the Majors division of the SLLB last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Twins played in the third and final match last weekend and crushed the Pirates, 19-4, while in the penultimate game, the Falcons pounced on the NSA Braves, 29-0.

It took the Falcons only four innings to finish the one-sided match, saving their best for last after piling up 16 runs at the top of the fourth.

Eight of the Falcons players at the batting order scored twice and third baseman Isidro Lizama even went at bat three times and delivered the last RBI for his squad before being caught stealing third. However, the top of the fourth belonged to pitcher Kyle Kapileo, who blasted a two-RBI triple in his first at bat in that period and followed it up with a two-RBI double in his return to home plate.

Twelve of the Falcons 16 runs in the pivotal fourth inning were earned ones with Keoni Serrano contributing off his two-RBI triple, Jonathan Pinaula hitting a two-RBI double and an RBI single, Lizama and Sandy Kani making an RBI single each, and Chris Gonzales adding an RBI double.

Kapileo went 4-for-5 at bat and scored six RBIs to lead the Falcons past the Braves. He also pitched in no relief in four innings, striking out nine, walking two, and allowing only one run. The lone hit came from A.J. Johnson's double at the bottom of the fourth and moved Heath Camacho to third with only one out. Kapileo then redeemed himself quickly, with back-to-back strikeouts to wrap up the match.

The Twins duplicated the

See BLOWOUT on Page 26

Babauta leads batting, pitching races in Senior League group

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Comets' Ethan Babauta owned the first half of competition in the Senior League as he topped both the batting and pitching races in the division.

In five games with the Comets in the four-round robin regular season, Babauta went 8-for-14 at bat for an average of .572. He is the lone player in the Top 10 to post a batting average of at least .500, as the Enforcers' Shakobe Rangamar recorded a second-best .467 off a 7-for-15 performance at the plate. The Red Sox' Christian Lizama and Nate

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Comets' Ethan Babauta catches a throw from home plate during an earlier game this month against the Falcons in the Senior League division of the SLLB at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.